A prospective mature age student is a person who is 18 years or older and seeking to enrol in a mature age state school. They will be subject to a criminal history check by the Queensland Police Service.

A prospective mature age student who is ineligible to enrol at a mature age state school (i.e. where they have been refused enrolment by the director-general in accordance with the [Refusal to enrol](https://ppr.qed.qld.gov.au/pp/refusal-to-enrol-risk-to-safety-or-wellbeing-procedure) process) may apply for enrolment at a school of distance education. They will not be subject to a further criminal history check and will receive [free distance education](https://ppr.qed.qld.gov.au/pp/distance-education-enrolment-fees-procedure) if their principal place of residence is at least 16 kilometres from a mature age state school.

A person is **not considered a prospective mature age student** where they:

* turn 18 years of age while at a Queensland or interstate school and are a continuing student
* were previously enrolled in a state school or non-state school in Queensland or interstate; and
* on the last day of enrolment they were under 18 years of age; and
* the period between their last day of attendance at their previous school and the proposed first day of attendance at the state school is not more than 12 months (which may need to be verified with previous school)
* hold a student visa (certified copy of visa is required).

People who **are not prospective mature age students** may apply for enrolment at any appropriate state school and will not be subject to a criminal history check by the Queensland Police Service. Entitlement to enrol at a state school is subject to meeting all eligibility criteria of the school and all enrolment requirements outlined in the [Enrolment in state primary, secondary and special schools](https://ppr.qed.qld.gov.au/pp/enrolment-in-state-primary-secondary-and-special-schools-procedure) procedure.

**Prior to enrolment at a mature age state school, you should talk to the principal or the enrolment officer and discuss:**

* your study and career goals (is attending school the right pathway for you?)
* if the school offers the subjects you want to study and whether there is availability for you in the classes
* the costs and workload associated with your proposed course of study
* if you have been previously excluded from the school or any other state school
* your remaining allocation of state education
* if you will need a Learning Account ([Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority Learning Account](https://studentconnect.qcaa.qld.edu.au/learning.html))
* the rules and conditions of enrolment.

**If, after speaking with the mature age state school, you decide that you would like to enrol at the school you must:**

* complete the:
	+ [Prospective mature age student criminal history check consent form](https://ppr.qed.qld.gov.au/attachment/prospective-mature-age-student-criminal-history-check-consent-form.docx)
	+ [Application for student enrolment form](https://ppr.qed.qld.gov.au/attachment/application-for-student-enrolment-form.pdf)
* arrange payment of the criminal history check fee:
	+ payment can be made to the school or
	+ the school may approve your request for them to pay the fee on your behalf
* provide appropriate proof of identity by showing the principal or enrolment officer one of the following:
	+ your current driver’s licence
	+ your current Adult Proof of Age Card (18+ card)
	+ your current passport including your photograph and signature page.

The school will copy your original identification document or you can provide copies that have been certified by a Justice of the Peace or Commissioner for Declarations.

**Timeframe for criminal history checks**

Criminal history checks are very thorough and may take eight weeks or longer to complete. Enrolment cannot occur until this process has been finalised.