

Carrying the torch with Lara Miller

Lara Miller is a Birriah woman with big dreams. After a five-year dual degree in Music and Science, this powerhouse has her sights set on a Doctor of Medicine from The University of Queensland (UQ).

Continuing the legacy

Born and raised in Cairns, Lara spent her childhood years looking up to her parents, both of whom are hardworking, passionate doctors. Speaking to this experience, Lara stated:

"I'm in a privileged position to have had those influences from a young age. I got to grow up watching two incredible rural doctors. That's something that I'm really proud of."

After high school, Lara decided it was time to forge a path of her own by moving to Brisbane to study at UQ. In 2023, after five years of studying, Lara graduated from UQ's Bachelor of Music / Bachelor of Science (Honours), within which she majored in Classical Voice and Opera, and Biomedical Science. While she originally planned on pursuing a career in music, it wasn't long before she realised her true calling.

"When I got to my second year, I realised that medicine is the only thing I can see myself doing. I thought: if this is not my career for the rest of my life, I'll never be content."

In 2024, Lara embarked on her pathway towards becoming a doctor through the UQ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Doctor of Medicine Admission Pathway. Lara acknowledges that this pathway ensures equity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who dream of studying at the UQ School of Medicine.

"Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander doctors are underrepresented in the health sector, but there's a growing demand and understanding that medicine needs diversity. That's why I believe in this pathway."

Invaluable, ongoing support

Lara admits that she wouldn't be where she is today without the generous support of UQ scholarships. She is the proud recipient of a UQ Indigenous Education Commonwealth Scholarship, the Siggins Miller Scholarship, and the Tran Indigenous Health Bursary. Speaking to the impact these scholarships have had on her life, Lara states:

"It takes a layer of stress off everything. It's not just about being able to afford to eat. It's about being able to afford fresh produce that will keep me healthy, or meals that are pre-prepped, so I have more time to invest in my studies, my growth as a student and future doctor."

In addition to her scholarships, Lara acknowledges the positive impact of UQ's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Unit (ATSISU). The ATSISU is a space in which Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and knowledges are celebrated, and students access it every day for both academic and cultural support. Lara speaks highly of the invaluable cultural support she receives from the ATSISU, and how it enables her to succeed:

"I know that if something was going on in my life, or if I'm feeling disconnected from Country, or missing my family, I can go and yarn and belong any time. I really appreciate it being there."

Thanks to the generous support of the ATSISU and the scholarships Lara has received, she is optimistic about the future as she continues to work towards her dream of becoming a doctor.

"I'm proud that my parents get to pass the torch on to me, and that there's going to be another Dr. Miller."

Lara Miller is a proud Birriah woman studying a Doctor of Medicine



Pursue your graduate pathway

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Admission Pathway

Gain alternative entry into your preferred program with The University of Queensland's (UQ) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander MD Admission Pathway. This admission pathway allows successful applicants to add up to 5 bonus ATAR points to your score, which may be the boost you need to pursue your studies in medicine.

If you are ready to create change in your community by pursuing a career in medicine, apply to UQ.

Applications key dates

Undergraduate QTAC entry:
9 December 2024
applications close

MD provisional entry:
30 September 2024
applications close

"During high school, I thought I was going to be a lawyer, which is why I never did the pre-med path... having the support within the Unit and being able to connect closely with a group of students that are also going through at the same time has made the transition really nice. It was talking with people, seeing that there are opportunities available, and that there was a pathway."

Brittany Ruska
Quandamooka woman and
UQ Doctor of Medicine student



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