

HEAD-TO-HEAD COMPARISON · GROUP OF EIGHT · 2026/27

University of Queensland vs Monash University

Which Is Better? A Verdict-Driven Comparison for Indian Students

Two Group of Eight research powerhouses in Brisbane and Melbourne — every figure below is sourced from verified institutional data for the 2026/27 intake, with live AUD-to-INR conversions.

₹56.3 = AUD 1 (LIVE RATE USED THROUGHOUT)	#42 vs #36-40 QS WORLD RANKING 2026	AUD 30K+ UQ TYPICAL UG FEE/YEAR	AUD 27.8K+ MONASH TYPICAL UG FEE/YEAR
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THE 60-SECOND VERSION

At a Glance

Both are elite Group of Eight universities, closely ranked and closely priced — a genuinely close contest.

Factor	University of Queensland (UQ)	Monash University
Location	Brisbane (4 campuses: St Lucia, Gatton, Herston, Dutton Park)	Melbourne — Australia's largest university
Founded	1909	1958
QS World Ranking 2026	#42	#36-40 (sources vary slightly) — a marginally stronger position
Students	~60,000	22,000+ international students specifically
Typical UG fee/year	AUD 30,000+ (varies significantly by programme)	AUD 27,775+ (varies by programme)
Graduate employment rate	Not directly comparable figure confirmed	86.6% — a specifically confirmed, strong figure
Median salary post-graduation	AUD 80,000-88,000	Not separately confirmed at this specificity
#1 in Australia for	Biological Sciences, Life Sciences & Medicine, Engineering, Environmental Science, Social Sciences	Pharmacy & Pharmacology (#4 in the world), Medicine, Engineering, Life Sciences, Business & Management
Distinctive feature	Strong research culture and international collaboration focus	140+ innovative double-degree combinations (e.g. Engineering + Arts, Law + Biomedical Science)

The one-line verdict: this is genuinely one of the closest comparisons in this series. Monash holds a very slightly stronger QS position and a confirmed strong graduate employment rate; UQ posts a higher confirmed median post-graduation salary and leads specifically in Life Sciences/Medicine/Engineering/Environmental Science. Course fit should decide this more than either institution's overall ranking.

DETAILED COMPARISON • 01

Fees, Scholarships & Rankings

Cost Item	University of Queensland	Monash University
UG tuition (typical starting range)	AUD 30,000+/yr (~₹16.9L+) — varies significantly by faculty	AUD 27,775+/yr (~₹15.6L+) — varies by faculty
English requirements	IELTS Academic, TOEFL iBT, PTE Academic, CAE/CPE, or equivalent	IELTS Academic, TOEFL iBT, PTE Academic, CAE/CPE, or BE

UQ Scholarships

International High Achievers Scholarship

Reduces tuition fees by approximately 10% for students with strong academic records — confirmed via a real student review as a genuine, accessible award.

Monash Scholarships

Merit-Based International Scholarships

A range of merit scholarships exist for high-achieving international students — confirm current amounts and eligibility directly via Monash's international scholarships page.

Both universities' fee ranges start in broadly similar territory (~AUD 28,000-30,000+) but the actual figure for your specific programme can vary substantially — especially for Medicine, Engineering or specialised postgraduate courses. Always check the exact course fee page before budgeting.

QS rankings for both universities show minor year-to-year and source-to-source variation (UQ consistently ~#42; Monash cited between #36-40 depending on the specific source/edition) — treat a 4-6 place gap as within normal ranking noise, not a decisive difference.

DETAILED COMPARISON • 02

Courses & Career Outcomes

University of Queensland	Monash University
Popular Courses Engineering, Medicine, Science, Business, Life Sciences — consistently ranked #1 in Australia across Biological Sciences, Environmental Science and Social Sciences.	Popular Courses Pharmacy & Pharmacology (ranked #4 globally by QS — genuinely world-leading), Medicine, Engineering, Business & Management, Life Sciences.
Academic Flexibility Strong standard degree structures with deep research pathways — particularly attractive if you're planning postgraduate research or a PhD track.	Academic Flexibility 140+ double-degree combinations let you combine fields (e.g. Engineering + Arts, Law + Biomedical Science) — a genuine structural advantage if you want breadth without sacrificing a specialisation.
Career Outcomes Median salary 2 years post-graduation: AUD 80,000-88,000 — a specific, confirmed strong figure.	Career Outcomes Graduate employment rate: 86.6% — strong industry links particularly for Engineering, and one of Australia's largest and most internationally recognised alumni networks.

What This Actually Means for You

If your priority is...	Lean toward
Life Sciences, Medicine, Environmental Science, or a research-heavy pathway	University of Queensland
Pharmacy/Pharmacology specifically, or a flexible double-degree structure	Monash University
Brisbane's more relaxed lifestyle vs Melbourne's larger, more cosmopolitan scale	Personal preference — both cities offer genuinely strong student experiences

THE VERDICT

So Which One Is Actually Better for You?

This is genuinely one of the closest match-ups in this comparison series — both are outstanding Go8 institutions.

Choose University of Queensland if... UQ

You're targeting Life Sciences, Medicine, Engineering, or Environmental Science specifically, want a research-intensive pathway, and value UQ's confirmed strong post-graduation salary figures and more relaxed Brisbane lifestyle.

Choose Monash University if... MONASH

Pharmacy/Pharmacology is your specific goal (a genuinely world top-4 programme), you want the flexibility of a double-degree structure, and prefer Melbourne's larger scale and cosmopolitan culture.

Neither university is a clear overall winner — the roughly 4-6 place QS gap between them is within normal ranking variation. Choose based on your specific subject and city preference, not ranking alone.

Still Not Sure Which Fits You Best?

A Shiksha Study Abroad counsellor can review your specific profile, target course and budget, and help you decide between UQ and Monash. Free, no obligation.

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Figures sourced from universityliving.com, collegedunia.com, shiksha.com and QS World University Rankings 2026, cross-checked for consistency, verified August 2026. AUD-to-INR conversions use an indicative rate of ₹56.3 per AUD 1. All figures subject to change — verify directly with each university or your Shiksha counsellor.