

My Timetable – Information sheet

Recently UQ announced the introduction of My Timetable, a new system for students to generate their class timetables. This information sheet provides more details about why UQ has made this change and what students can expect.

Why change?

The Class Sign-on System in mySI-net was a consistent target of complaints and concerns by students over many years and was highlighted as a problem in the 2015 Student Strategy survey. Students could not create their complete timetable at once but had different sign-on times for different classes. System load meant that sign-on times were often not student-friendly, requiring 6:00 am and 9:00 pm sign-on times. The student experience was influenced by the quality of their internet connection, and students could miss the sign-on rush due to other commitments. The aging system meant UQ experienced system load issues in peak class times, which affected students' ability to sign-on. The system was cumbersome to change and develop, leaving UQ unable to respond to new requirements.

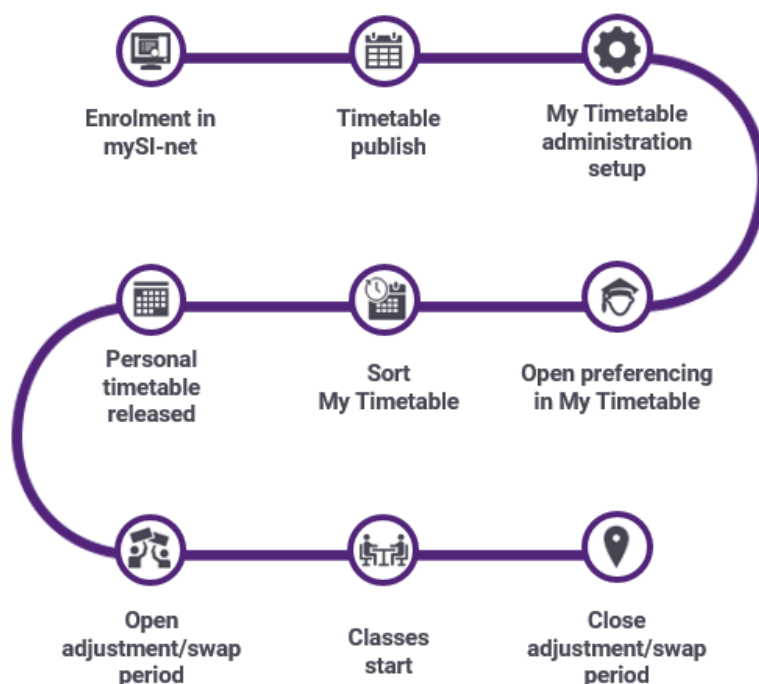
The first-in-first-served model for class allocation favoured those students best able to work within the constraints of the system leaving others at a disadvantage. If a student needed to make a change to their timetable, they had to contact course administrators to follow a manual process.

The university was underutilising teaching space, as there was the ability for students to assign themselves to multiple classes at the same time.

UQ consulted with staff, students, and other universities in determining what replacement solution should be deployed.

How does My Timetable work?

The following diagram provides a high-level overview of how My Timetable works:





Detailed steps

- Course enrolment remains unchanged and is done in mySI-net.
- The timetable is published through the UQ Public Timetable found in the Apps section of my.UQ. There has been no change to the underlying timetable and the same class times and choices will be available.
- Class information is setup in My Timetable by Faculties and Schools.
- My Timetable is open for students to select their preferences over a 10 to 14 day window. There is no advantage to selecting preferences earlier or later than anyone else as everyone is treated equally.
- Once the preferencing window is complete, the system will sort through these preferences and allocate clash-free timetables to all students. It will attempt to allocate students to the highest preference possible, however it is not always able to give everyone their first, or second preference.
- Personal timetables are released in My Timetable approximately two weeks prior to semester start.
- The adjustment/swap window is opened for students to make changes to their timetable and is open into the semester.

How were students included in the decision to change?

The following student consultation occurred:

- Consultation with the IT Student Advisory group.
- Surveys around the current class sign-on system and the proposed preference model indicated strong student support for the preference model.
- Inclusion of student reps in our procurement process.
- Inclusion of student reps on an advisory project reference group throughout the project.

Benefits and features for students

- From Semester One, students will have the ability to select the delayed viewing of a lecture as a clashable option. This option will be made available for lectures at the discretion of each faculty.
- The system can cater for students with registered special timetable requirements such as accessibility.
- Students can create workgroups between themselves and can choose to share their timetables.
- “Livecal” can be used to overlay or sync timetables with other calendars and subscribe to feeds to keep personal timetables up to date.
- During the adjustment / swap window students will have the ability to swap into an alternative class where space is available. Where a preferred alternative class is full the student can add themselves to a waitlist and will be automatically moved if a spot becomes available.

The new timetable product has student experience at the heart of its roadmap, and we expect new features to be progressively rolled out to students as they become available including:

- Consolidation of your exam timetable.
- Integration with Placements.
- Consideration of broader student preferences.
- Better integration with Maps.

UQ will use this implementation to continue to improve the quality of the timetable to give students an equitable, personalised and manageable timetable. Over time the new model allows UQ to gather preferencing data that can be used to improve the timetable based on demand-where possible.