Applying

The process of becoming a donor to the Griffith University School of Anatomy Body Bequest Program is to apply in writing stating your wish to leave your body to Griffith University, after death, for teaching and research purposes. The letter or email should be addressed to:

The Body Bequest Officer
School of Anatomy
Medicine and Oral Health Centre
Griffith University
PMB 50 Gold Coast Mail Centre
Queensland 9726, Australia
sch-anatomy@griffith.edu.au

Upon receipt of your letter the School of Anatomy will send a consent form, along with an information sheet and other documentation. Donors must complete and return the consent form and submit it to the School of Anatomy. Once the completed consent form is returned, the applicant will be advised of acceptance into our bequest program. This letter will include the provision for you to withdraw your consent at any time prior to your death if you wish.

To be sure that your desire to donate your body is observed, it is suggested that you discuss your intentions with your next of kin (or delegated alterative), executors of your Will and your health care provider(s).

Confidentiality

The University undertakes to maintain donor confidentiality throughout the body donation process. Personal details acquired are used only for the assessment of donor acceptability, and for the purpose of fulfilling legislative responsibilities such as supply of information to the Registrar of Births Deaths and Marriages.

Contact details

Further information on the willing of bodies for teaching and research can be obtained by contacting the Griffith University School of Anatomy.

All correspondence should be addressed to

The Body Bequest Officer
School of Anatomy
Medicine and Oral Health Centre
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PMB 50 Gold Coast Mail Centre
Queensland 9726, Australia
sch-anatomy@griffith.edu.au

Telephone +61 (0)7 5552 7700
Facsimile +61 (0)7 5552 9166
Email sch-anatomy@griffith.edu.au

Thank you for your interest in the Griffith University Body Bequest Program.
Why donate your body?

The generous act of body donation is central to the provision of practical opportunities to study the human body in the educational environment. By making this personal gift, donors make a vital contribution to training the next generation of doctors, scientists and health professionals, and an invaluable contribution to the work of our researchers and scientists who have dedicated their working lives to advancing scientific and medical knowledge, promoting health and finding cures to human illness.

Most bodies are used for teaching purposes and will be the subject of student examination and dissection. Studying real human bodies is an invaluable approach to learning anatomy for most health care workers, including doctors, dentists, therapists, pharmacists or exercise scientists.

Some bodies are used specifically for surgical and medical research and training. They help to advance surgical techniques and scientific knowledge both nationally and internationally, thereby improving healthcare and alleviating suffering.

Conditions of acceptance

Anyone over the age of 18 may donate their body. We accept donations of human bodies from people who die in the greater Gold Coast area and surrounds, including Brisbane, and the Tweed.

The following conditions could prevent acceptance of a body at the time of death:

- Donor has died outside the Body Bequest Program catchment area
- Donor cannot be transferred to the Griffith School of Anatomy within 2 days of death
- Donor had Creutzfeldt Jacob Disease, acute dementia or other transmissible disease
- Donor has unhealed surgical wounds
- Organ donation at time of death (except corneal)
- Donor has undergone or will require an autopsy
- Coroner’s inquiry

It is regretted that the University is not able to accept a body if the donor does not wish their body to ultimately be cremated.

Procedure after death

At the time of your death, either medical staff or your next of kin must notify the School of Anatomy. Your next of kin will be asked to give consent to the donation. If your next of kin objects to the donation, the University will cancel the bequest.

Cost

The University covers the costs of the transport and cremation of donated bodies. However, should a donor wish to include a bequest in their Will to cover those costs, the School of Anatomy would be most grateful for the additional generosity.

Conclusion of donation

The donated body will be a teaching or research specimen for either up to three years, or for an indefinite period, according to the stipulation of the donor at the time of consenting. Ultimately, the body will be cremated. According to the wishes of the donor at the time of consenting, the ashes will either be made available to the next of kin, or scattered in the University Memorial Garden.

Thanksgiving Service

A special Thanksgiving Service will be held regularly to express the University’s gratitude for all such donations. Relatives and friends of donors, as well as students and staff of Griffith University are invited to attend these occasions.

Book of Remembrance

With donor consent, the name of each donor will be entered into a Book of Remembrance that will be permanently on display in the School of Anatomy, Griffith University, Gold Coast campus.