Safe Cycling Tips and Information

Be predictable

Ride in as straight a line as possible. This will involve keeping to the left but not hugging the gutter and not weaving around parked cars. Signal your intentions - you are legally required to signal a right-hand turn (extend your right arm sideways from the bike) and it is a good idea to signal left as well.

Be aware

Scan the road in front and behind regularly. Watch for cars entering from driveways and side streets. Keep your eyes and ears on the traffic - never text or listen to earphones while riding.

Keeping left

All road users are obliged to keep as far to the left as practicable. For cyclists this means leaving space for those unexpected pot holes and car doors! On two-lane roads, you may occupy the lane and may travel in the right lane when necessary (eg. to make a right-hand turn).
Shared Paths

Cyclists must slow down and sound their bell (which is required to be fitted to all road bicycles under Queensland legislation) as you approach pedestrians to warn that you are about to pass on the right.

Bike lanes and bike paths

You can choose whether or not you wish to use a bicycle lane where one is provided. Never ride in a bicycle lane on the wrong side of the road (i.e. travelling towards oncoming traffic).

Footpaths, shared paths and pedestrian crossings

Cyclists are allowed on footpaths unless prohibited by a bicycle prohibition sign. You must keep left and give way to pedestrians. Please note that there are some areas on campus where cyclists are requested to dismount and walk their bike.

Speed

Speed is a known contributor to accidents. The speed limit on campus roads is 30km/h, reducing to 15km/h at pedestrian crossings and speed bumps.

Overtaking on the left

You can overtake other vehicles on the left unless they are signalling and turning left. Be aware! Remember sometimes drivers forget to indicate.

Roundabouts

This is one area where there is a rule specific to cyclists. Motor vehicles must turn right from the right lane whereas cyclists may turn right from either lane. If turning right from the left lane, then you must give way at each exit to vehicles leaving the roundabout. Turn right from the right lane in the same way as other vehicles.

Hook Turns

As a cyclist, you are allowed to perform a hook turn to turn right at an intersection. Remain on the left while approaching the intersection. While applying the normal give way rules, enter the intersection and cross over to the far side of the road you wish to enter. As necessary, either wait for a green light or give way to traffic as per normal before crossing the intersection again and continuing in your new direction of travel.
Essentials on your bike

- a rear reflector
- an effective brake
- a bell
- for low light times: a front white light and rear red light
- and a helmet on your head

Optional Accessories

- Mudguards - these can be very useful in wet weather
- Racks and Panniers - to carry objects
- Mirrors
- Locks - to protect your bike from thieves
- Lightweight hand pump
- Repair kit and small tools in the event of a puncture
- Cycle computers provide information on speed and distance travelled

Accessories for comfort and safety

- Padded cycling shorts
- Cycling shoes with stiff soles and optional cleats (mainly for high-performance riders)
- Gloves to protect your hands from the effects of sun and wind and also in the event of a fall
- Sunglasses
- Water bottle