What are pronouns?
We use pronouns such as she/her, he/him and they/them to identify or refer to someone. There are also neopronouns which are a new category of pronouns, like ze/hir/hirs, or xe/xem/xyr. Neopronouns can be used by anyone, they don’t hold a specific meaning, and are a way for someone to best represent themselves like they would through clothing or their name.

Why is correctly using pronouns important?
Pronouns should not be assumed, so asking and correctly using someone’s pronouns is one of the most basic ways to show your respect for their identity. When you indicate your own pronouns it demonstrates that it is safe for others to share theirs with you.

How should I do this?
Please feel free to include your pronouns on your name tag or wear a pronoun badge. When you meet someone, look for their pronoun sticker/badge or introduce yourself using your pronouns, like:

“Hi, my name is Fen, my pronouns are they/them!”

Top tips!
- The use of pronoun stickers is optional, and you may choose not to add pronouns to your name tag.
- Everyone makes mistakes! Try to notice if you use the wrong pronoun, give a brief but genuine apology, then correct yourself and move on.
- Respecting someone’s provided pronouns is not optional so please use these respectfully.
- If someone else makes a mistake with other people’s pronouns, politely and without shaming correct them.

If you are interested in learning more about sex, sexuality and gender diversity at UQ or in general, please visit the UQ Ally webpage: bit.ly/UQAlly