

ACU Announcements

Wednesday 13 May 2020

Dear staff and students

Seeing familiar faces on our campuses again is wonderful. As restrictions are eased many more of you will return to campus.

This pandemic has been both an isolating and a shared experience. So many people have adapted extraordinarily well to a virtual way of working and learning, bunkered down in our remote locations, we have seen more of each other online. Yet nothing can replace the value of human interaction from seeing our colleagues and classmates across the university.

Safety on campus

In preparation of having more people on campus, we have taken the following measures to ensure health and safety:

- Increased cleaning
- Social distancing, strictly enforced
- Reduced class sizes, additional classes, and revised class activities
- Modification of some services, thoroughfares and amenities, including limitations on the maximum number of people in a lift or a room
- Updated signage for information about hygiene and maintaining distance around lifts and usual meeting places
- Provision of hand sanitiser – however we do recommend you also carry your own supply of sanitiser and wipes and continue to wash hands regularly and thoroughly

Reporting and self-assessment of COVID-19

Monitoring and reporting any potential cases of COVID-19 is fundamental to maintaining a safe campus for everyone.

ACU has [a set of protocols \(PDF, 66KB\)](#) for reporting and dealing with confirmed COVID-19 cases amongst staff, students and visitors. To assist staff, students and visitors identify whether they need to report, the university has developed a [self-assessment guide](#). If you are concerned about a risk or have tested positive, please make sure you fill in the [ACU reporting form for staff](#) or the [ACU reporting form for students](#).

Any staff member or student who has a confirmed COVID-19 infection must follow health guidelines and directions from health professionals.

Student practical work and placements

We expect all units that were offered in Semester 1 to be completed before Semester 2 starts, with the exception of some practical placements.

We are working closely with students in their final semester and prioritising final practical placements where possible.

Many placements are still occurring, so please make sure you monitor your university email account for information and updates specific to your program.

If you have any further questions regarding this, please contact your lecturer-in-charge or your local placement office.

What services are available?

- Cafes on campus will reopen on each campus from next Monday 18 May, except Ballarat which will open on 25 May. Please support these businesses wherever possible, and note that payment will be contactless, no cash please
- [AskACU](#): 8am-6.30pm
- [Service Central](#): 8am-5.30pm for phone requests and 24/7 via the portal for knowledgebase and online requests
- [Library](#): Check here for [campus hours](#). Our virtual library is operating as usual with online resources available 24/7 and you can contact us via chat (24/7) or email
- [Counselling services for students](#) and [Access EAP](#) for staff
- Campus Ministry continues to provide pastoral and spiritual wellbeing support to the ACU community, whether it be on campus or online. To contact Campus Ministry staff or an ACU Chaplain please visit the [ACU website](#).

As we begin to venture back out into the world, we may feel just as anxious as when the increased restrictions on coming to work began. Among ACU academic specialists who have provided much expertise on adapting and coping, psychologist Dr Michael Noetel identifies three core areas of focus to help us ease back into real life in this [Impact article](#).

Planning for Semester 2

ACU is still developing a comprehensive plan in line with the federal and state roadmap to recovery for Semester 2 and at this stage anticipates a hybrid of on-campus and on-line delivery.

We will be able to provide more information about these classes and full any feasible return of students to campus as soon as practicable.

What can you do to help others?

ACU Engagement and Campus Ministry can't collect donations the way they usually would, but there is still a need within the community. They have developed Donation Bingo to encourage giving from home. Watch the [video](#) to find out how you can help and have fun along the way.

How many can you collect? - [Grab your Bingo Card here](#)
[Visit the website](#) to learn more about our community partners and how you can help them in supporting our communities during this difficult time.

As an extra incentive the person with the most bingo boxes crossed off when we return to working on campus will have \$50 donated to an organisation of their choosing.

[#GivingFromHome](#)

External resources

ACU's recovery plan follows the National Cabinet's [roadmap to recovery](#), the Universities Australia [Principles and Protocols for reducing the potential risk of COVID-19 transmission at Universities](#), and moves by state and territory governments to transition schools back to classroom-based learning and to slowly lift social and travel restrictions.

With the difference in restrictions in each state and territory, you are advised to check the guidelines issued by the premier or chief minister and follow the most up to date directions.

We encourage all staff and students to install the Australian Government's COVIDSafe app on their phone. The app provides valuable secure information to health authorities to assist in tracing contact with any COVID-19 positive cases. Further information about the app can be found on the [Department of Health website](#).

The [FAQs](#) on the ACU website are being updated regularly and include links to ACU policies as well as health authorities, government directions, and public transport.

Vice-Chancellor and President Professor Greg Craven

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