

ACU Announcements

Wednesday 15 April 2020

Dear staff and students

We have made swift adjustments to accommodate changes in the way we learn, work and live due to COVID-19.

As we continue to follow the guidelines that the Australian Government has outlined for universities, we are not only looking at how we are operating during this time, but also focusing on how we will lead into Semester 2 and 2021.

The university sector and COVID-19

It's reassuring to know that ACU is in a very strong financial position. We are confident we will see through this challenging period and will continue to provide a quality education for our students and a secure working environment for our staff.

It is through prudent financial management that we find ourselves better placed than many other Australian universities, which includes a careful balance of domestic students and international students.

It's likely you've been reading about the tough road ahead for many universities as international student revenue crashes due to COVID-19. There have been warnings of staff job losses, suspension of building works, and cost cutting across the board.

At ACU we have around 15% of international students. Others by comparison have up to nearly 45% international students and the impact for them will therefore be significantly greater.

Some universities face losses of hundreds of millions of dollars which inevitably will affect staffing and teaching. This simply is not the case at ACU.

This means that we won't be forced into a financial situation which may affect your studies or significantly impact our workforce, and we won't be making any drastic decisions that dramatically change how you study or work.

We're confident we can weather the current crisis smoothly and continue providing a quality and consistent education albeit under different and challenging conditions.

Earlier this week Federal Education Minister Dan Tehan announced funding for Australian universities to offer a range of higher education certificate short courses to support displaced workers or people wishing to upskill or retrain. ACU will be developing short courses in response to this opportunity and we will be able to provide further information on this soon.

Please make sure you continue to monitor our [FAQs](#) on the ACU website which are being updated regularly.

Vice-Chancellor and President Professor Greg Craven

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