

ACU Announcements

Thursday 9 April 2020

Dear staff and students

The university has undergone considerable changes over the last few weeks and I am sure you are all ready for a short break. We are still working to make sure all the necessary transitions are progressing successfully.

Student placements

We remain committed to ensuring all our students will meet the necessary requirements so you can graduate and register for professional practice, if this is a requirement of your degree. The Vice-Chancellor and Executive Deans are in discussions in all states and at all levels of government to secure as many placements as we can during this time.

For education students, the university is currently working with schools to confirm what Term 2 placements in schools will be possible and the format that these placements will take.

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.

Support for international students

This has been a particularly confusing and stressful time for our international students. You are an important part of the ACU community and we are here to give you as much support and reassurance as possible.

We are working closely with our students, international student advisors and all our support services to make sure we can offer the best solutions that work for each individual.

Support can include everything from study skills, careers advice, financial advice and guidance, access to financial hardship support as well as emotional wellbeing support from our counselling service. Our team can also provide advice on where to seek

assistance with tenancy and rental issues, visa compliance and legal advice and employment services. You can contact us via [AskACU](#).

A message from the Vice-Chancellor and President will soon be sent to international students.

Vaccinations

ACU offers an annual flu vaccination program to help maintain the health and wellbeing of our staff.

There is currently no vaccination against COVID-19. However, the annual flu vaccination reduces the severity and risk of contracting influenza, which could make you more susceptible to COVID-19.

ACU is providing staff a combination of vaccination clinics facilitated by Vitality Works on campus and vouchers that can be redeemed at hundreds of chemists/pharmacies across Australia. Further information about our staff vaccination program can be found [here](#).

While this program is only available for staff, we encourage students to find out the best vaccination for them and contact their health provider for information on how and when to get vaccinated. The Australian Government Department of Health National Immunisation Program is provided free for those most at risk from influenza and its complications. Further details can be found [here](#).

Accessing campus

Social isolation is an important approach for managing COVID-19 in the Australian community. Based on recent communication from authorities, it is expected that state and territory police will be more actively checking people's reason for leaving home and will be enforcing personal and business fines.

The only staff who should be on campus are those whose roles have been identified as essential. Information about essential travel and details about essential staff are included in the [FAQs](#), and I have directly informed those staff of their roles. Unless identified as essential staff (on-campus), staff are not to attend campuses and other workplaces away from their homes.

Campuses and libraries remain open for students.

Hours of operation

Several of our services are continuing extended hours of availability, and please remember that there is a large reservoir of resources and step by step guides available 24/7 in the [AskACU](#) and [Service Central](#) knowledge bases.

Staff can make on-line service requests via the Service Central portal at any time. Resources are being updated regularly to reflect your questions.

- [AskACU](#): 8am-6.30pm
- [Service Central](#): 8am-6.30pm today and will revert to 8am-5.30pm from next week
- [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

I would like to wish you all a very safe and enjoyable Easter, albeit a quieter one than usual.

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

On behalf of Dr Stephen Weller and the Critical Incident Response Group

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