

ACU Announcements

Friday 20 March 2020

Dear staff and students

With the number of rapid changes to the COVID-19 situation, we would like to keep you updated on the latest developments in our response to COVID-19 and how that affects you.

ACU's first confirmed COVID-19 case

As you may be aware, ACU had its first confirmed COVID-19 case with a student on our Strathfield Campus this week. The student has self-isolated and has very mild symptoms. The student had minimal contact with other students and staff due to practising social distancing measures, and NSW Health has now notified all who were in contact with the student.

All areas on the Strathfield Campus that the student attended have received an intensive two-step clean and the campus remains open, as advised by NSW Health.

Vacation brought forward to get ready for online teaching

A reminder that the vacation has been brought forward to start on Monday, and there will be no online or face-to-face classes for the week beginning March 23.

During this time, we'll be hard at work to ensure that the majority of classes will be offered online from March 30 (Week 5), with a small number of exceptions.

We'll be in touch with the details very soon – please keep an eye on your emails during the break. In the meantime, please get ready for online learning. We remind students to check your technology and setup at home, log in to LEO, and stay across student emails. Help one another to stay calm in this challenging time as we work to ensure you continue to receive a high-quality educational experience.

Service Central and AskACU

Services are currently experiencing an unusually high volume of requests and enquiries. These teams are focused on attending to each one as quickly as possible. Given the high volume and pressure on these staff, your kindness and patience would be appreciated.

You may find your answers on the [AskACU knowledge base](#) for students, [Service Central knowledge base for staff](#), and our [COVID-19 FAQs](#).

Social distancing

“Social distancing” has become the expression de jour, with everyone taking extra care to give each other space. Health authorities recommend trying to keep a distance of 1.5 metres from another person, avoiding handshakes and other unnecessary close contact. We have cancelled or postponed all non-essential university events and moved meetings to video or phone conference where possible.

The Australian Department of Health offers [useful guidelines](#) on why this is important and what practices to observe.

We are updating our [FAQs](#) regularly so please keep checking the website to make sure your question is answered.

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

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[Australia Catholic University Critical Incident Management Policy.](#)