



From the
Vice-Chancellor
and President



Dear ACU community

Over the last few days, we have closely monitored the course of COVID-19 and the range of government announcements made to slow its progress. Our foremost concern remains the safety and wellbeing of our staff and students, as well as the ability for our students to continue their studies and research in a safe environment.

In response, we have been making careful preparations to ensure we continue to deliver a high-quality educational experience, throughout which our staff and students are well-supported. This will involve some important changes to Semester 1 which I outline below.

Mid-semester break to commence earlier

Classes will continue as normal this week.

However, we will pause all face-to-face and online teaching from close of business this Friday 20 March, with teaching to resume on Monday 30 March.

This in effect means that the Autumn mid-semester break will be moved forward to commence on 23 March and conclude on 27 March, and there will not be a break from April 13 – 17 as originally planned.

During this time our academics and professional services staff will work to adapt campus-based delivery of our units to modes of online delivery, wherever feasible. So far as possible, the university will attempt to ensure both online and physical delivery of units, to facilitate student choice.

For units that continue to involve a physical presence on campus, the university will distribute protocols to ensure social distancing. If units are taught online only, every effort will be made to support student learning.

Classes will recommence on March 30. We understand that this may be disruptive for some students, but moving the break means we can still finish Semester 1 within the planned period. Students will receive further timely communication towards the end of next week on proposed changes to impacted units.

Campuses remain open

It is important to emphasise that during this week of paused classes, and from when classes resume from 30 March, all ACU campuses will remain open. Students and staff will still be able to access libraries, sporting facilities, study spaces and food outlets.

After resumption of classes, units involving physical presence will continue to be delivered on campus, while also being offered online, as feasible.

Thank you for your hard work and patience as we work to navigate a challenging situation. I know this will be concerning for many of you, but it is important that we take these precautionary measures now.

We will continue to communicate as new information becomes available, and will update the university's [FAQs](#) to reflect this announcement by the end of today.

Sincerely

Professor Greg Craven AO, GCSG

Vice-Chancellor and President

Australian Catholic University

The Vice-Chancellery, 40 Edward Street, North Sydney, NSW 2060

PO Box 968, North Sydney, NSW 2059

T: +612 9739 2930

E: vc@acu.edu.au

W: www.acu.edu.au

Australian Catholic University & the courses offered by the University are registered on the Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students (CRICOS). Provider registration codes: ABN 15 050 192 660 CRICOS Reg. 00004G.

This correspondence is for the named person's use only. It may contain confidential or legally privileged information or both. No confidentiality or privilege is waived or lost by this transmission. If you receive this correspondence in error, please immediately delete it from your system and notify the sender. You must not disclose, copy or rely on any part of this correspondence if you are not the intended recipient.



The Vice-Chancellor has signed the **Pay Equity Pledge** and is committed to promoting and improving gender equality.

