



Dear

I appreciate the considerable amount of stress you, your families and your friends are under at this difficult time. The University is focused on helping to make your learning experience as supportive and flexible as possible given the current uncertainty relating to the COVID-19 pandemic.

I'd like to update you on some important items relevant to your studies and the support available at Griffith.

Assessment

To take some of the pressure off you, Griffith has made some changes to our assessment practices.

The maximum extension of time for an assessment task (that is not an exam) has been increased and what constitutes compassionate circumstances has been broadened to allow extensions to students who have been impacted by COVID-19, including difficulties with accessing online resources, or submitting assignments online.

If you experience difficulties in obtaining a medical certificate to support a deferred assessment or a special consideration application, a statutory declaration will be accepted.

The University will also offer supplementary assessments to students due to graduate in Trimester 1 2020 who have not passed a final course.

Exams

There will be no on-campus examinations during this trimester and, with a small number of exceptions, our end-of-trimester 1 exams will be conducted online, as take-home open book examinations or other forms of assessment. Affected students will be advised via the Learning@Griffith course site.

Academic standing

There will be no reviews of student performance, resulting in exclusion on academic grounds until the conclusion of Trimester 2 in order to minimise the impacts of COVID-19 on your academic progress.

For more information on the above changes, visit [assessment, exams and grades](#).

Financial support

The Australian Government has announced its special Coronavirus Supplement will be extended to eligible Abstudy, Austudy and Youth Allowance (student) recipients.

The \$550 supplement will be available for an initial six months, with the possibility of a further extension.

Eligible students will also receive the first \$750 one-off economic stimulus payments being provided to income-support recipients, pensioners and other eligible concession cardholders.

See the Government's [Coronavirus Supplement](#) announcement for more details.

Griffith University COVID-19 Student Support Bursary

The Griffith University COVID-19 Student Support Bursary has been expanded to include International and postgraduate coursework students. This bursary assists eligible students who are directly impacted by COVID-19, or are struggling with the extra costs of accessing the technologies to study online.

See [COVID-19 Student Support Bursary](#) for details and to apply.

On-campus services and support

The National Cabinet has announced new more widespread restrictions around social gatherings, which impacts our campuses.

- Select campus [food outlets](#) are now providing takeaway-only services. Several food outlets have elected to close.
- Griffith gym and indoor sports facilities have closed. Direct debit payments for memberships will be suspended.
- The Multifaith Centre at Nathan campus has closed.
- Griffith libraries will be closed from 6 pm tonight although library resources can still be accessed online. See the Library's [studying from home page](#) for details. The computer labs remain open.
- Griffith childcare services remain open.

Student support services and **Student Connect** are still operating and can be accessed online or via phone. Limited face to face services will continue for the time being.

The [Griffith Online Health and Wellness Centre](#) provides access to counselling services on campus, as well as other support resources. For counselling after hours and on weekends, call [Crisis Support Service](#) on 1300 785 442 or text 0488 884 146.

If you are feeling unwell, please do not come to campus. You should contact 13HEALTH (13 432 584) or see your GP.

Check your contact details

Please ensure your current contact details are correct so we can keep you updated. To check and update your details:

1. Login to [myGriffith](#).
2. Select 'My Details' button.
3. Click the 'Edit Details' button to change your addresses, phone number/s, personal email address/es and emergency contact information.

Surveys

Your feedback is important to us. After discussions with our student representative associations, we have agreed to defer the Student Evaluation of Teaching (SET) survey for Trimester 1 but will continue the Student Evaluations of Courses (SEC) survey, with some changes to accommodate feedback on online teaching.

The deferral of SET was agreed to because of the large number of changes in the mode of delivery of courses and the staff involved in teaching. Please continue to provide your feedback through the modified SEC.

Enrolment for Trimester 2

Open Enrolment dates for Trimester 2 have been shifted from 6 April to 21 May, offering as much flexibility as possible. The Trimester 2 timetable will be published on 14 May. The [2020 Academic Calendar](#) has been updated to reflect this new timing.

Graduating students

We recently wrote to all students who should graduate in July 2020 advising the process for graduating and conferral. While they will receive all their certified documents (including degree testamur, official transcript and AHEGS), the traditional graduation ceremonies will not be able to proceed as planned. Options for future graduation ceremonies and other ways of celebrating your time at Griffith coming to an end will be offered in the future.

For more information please email graduations@griffith.edu.au

Border controls

Students who live in New South Wales will be aware of new border controls. The Queensland Government has advised that people who live outside Queensland but near the border who ordinarily work or study in Queensland can travel for these purposes. It is recommended that you carry your student ID on you.

Please continue to take care of yourself and each other. Although the current circumstances are unnerving, I am so grateful to see the level of compassion and support across the Griffith community.

Professor Carolyn Evans

Vice Chancellor and President
Griffith University

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