



Dear

As we draw towards the end of this most unusual of trimesters, I wanted to thank and congratulate you on the resilience, adaptability and patience you have shown to make it this far. This was not the way that any of us wished this year to start, but both students and staff have risen to the challenges. I'm really proud of this wonderful university and the great people who make up the Griffith community.

Recognising it has been an extraordinary year for so many of you, I also want to provide you with an update on the support Griffith is offering students and our plans for end-of-trimester exams as well as learning and teaching in Trimester 2.

#### **Student support packages of \$15 million**

The University has announced further investment in our COVID-19 Student Support Bursary, plus a range of other measures to help students in need. Overall, the University has now committed more than \$15 million across various initiatives to assist our struggling students. A proportion of the additional funds will come from the University's Senior Executive Group, who have volunteered a pay reduction of 20 per cent for six months.

Some of these measures are outlined in more detail below.

#### **COVID-19 Student Support Bursary**

More than \$2 million has already been dispersed via the COVID-19 Student Support Bursary to help vulnerable students transition to online study. The bursary has now been increased to \$5 million with a focus on those struggling with living expenses and will reopen for another round of applications Monday 11 May.

More than 2200 domestic and international students have already received COVID-19 support bursaries. If you require financial support to continue your studies online, go to [COVID-19 Student Support Bursary](#) to apply.

#### **Computer Loan Program**

If you require a computer to study online, you can apply for a free, long-term computer loan via the [Griffith Computer Loan Program](#). Hundreds of students have already borrowed a University computer through this popular Computer Loan Program, so please explore this option if you don't have access to a computer at home.

#### **Equity and Indigenous student support**

The University is also providing \$1.8 million in equity scholarships and support for Indigenous students. Visit [scholarships](#) and select equity scholarships in the search function to view these options.

#### **Support for international students**

Our international student population has been hit particularly hard by the COVID-19 crisis. Going home has not been possible for many due to travel restrictions and limited flights, and federal government support has not been an option.

The University has now implemented a 20 per cent reduction in international student fees for those studying at least 30 CP in Trimester 2 which we hope will go some way to alleviating the anxiety and hardship many of you are enduring at the moment.

See [COVID-19 support for international students](#) for more helpful information and relevant resources.

#### **Community support**

As well as providing direct support, the University is working with our student representative bodies, Study Gold Coast, Study Brisbane and Study Queensland, plus other community organisations, to provide additional counselling services, meals, food hampers and emergency accommodation.

#### **Assessments and exams**

The COVID-19 situation has meant we've had to look carefully at our approaches to assessment and find a suitable online alternative to on-campus exams. We have significantly reduced the number of invigilated exams this trimester. Only a small number of programs with mandatory accreditation requirements will include online invigilated exams as part of their assessment.

For more information, including frequently asked questions visit [COVID 19 support for students](#)

#### **Fail grades**

We understand this period has been a difficult time for many. If you fail a course this trimester, the Fail grade will not be recorded on your academic record and will not be included in calculations of your Grade Point Average (GPA). We hope that this helps to alleviate the stress as we come towards end of trimester assessment.

#### **Learning and teaching in Trimester 2**

We continue to follow the Australian Government's advice, having ceased all face-to-face teaching for the time being. While these restrictions may be lifted in the near future, there is still a lot of uncertainty around when and if this will happen.

As such, we have planned for all students to start Trimester 2 studies from home pending further advice from the government. If the current restrictions are relaxed, you will have the flexibility to continue studying at home online, or a combination of online and on-campus, for the rest of Trimester 2. We are hopeful of being able to provide more of an on-campus experience in trimester 2 while working to ensure the health and safety of both staff and students. We will keep you updated on these plans.

Ultimately, we want to provide you with the best possible learning experience in all scenarios. We have also upskilled our teaching staff to continue supporting your learning from home during Trimester 2.

Can I take this opportunity to ask you to seriously consider downloading the COVIDSafe app to your phone to enhance the ability of Queensland Health to protect the health of staff and students when we begin to move back to campus.

For more information, including updates on labs and practical placements, see [studying in Trimester 2 2020](#).

#### **Open enrolment for Trimester 2**

To allow more time for planning and refining courses for online delivery, we have delayed open enrolment for Trimester 2, and have pushed back the start of Trimester by one week to July 13 for most students.

Open enrolment dates are now as follows:

- 8–10 June: Planning for open enrolment
- 11 June: Open enrolment for Trimester 2 2020.

#### **Work-integrated learning**

Our work-integrated learning coordinators are consulting with industry and community partners to explore feasible options during the current climate. Some work-integrated learning will continue as planned, some experiences may be delayed, and others may move to virtual options or projects.

#### **Ongoing support and staying connected**

There are a wide range of [support services](#) available to students as we continue to navigate these uncertain times. I also encourage you to [stay connected](#) with your peers and take advantage of our free [Online Health and Wellness Centre](#), which has resources available 24/7.

I wish you all the best for these last couple of weeks of study and for your final assessment. I recognise that this will be the last time that the graduating class will be studying at Griffith and I know how disappointed many of you (and we) are at not being able to have a graduation ceremony in the middle of the year. We are planning to do our best to still make this a special moment for you in recognition of your achievements and I look forward to sharing more with you soon.

Please continue to stay safe and look after yourself and each other.

**Professor Carolyn Evans**  
Vice Chancellor and President  
Griffith University

This email was sent by Griffith University  
[Nathan](#) | [Gold Coast](#) | [Mt Gravatt](#) | [Logan](#) | [South Bank](#)  
[Privacy policy](#) | [Copyright matters](#) | [Contact us](#)  
CRICOS Provider - 00233E

Having trouble reading this email? [View it online](#).