

Dear

I hope you are enjoying some downtime in the lead-up to study in Trimester 2 (T2). The first half of 2020 has been a very challenging one for all of us and we hope that in this second half of the year we will start seeing the benefits of the hard work that everyone has put into keeping Australia safe.

Now that we have started to see some relaxation of COVID-19 restrictions around the country, I would like to update you on our plans for returning to campus. Our staff and students will return to our physical campuses in carefully considered stages. Some of our staff are currently transitioning to prepare for the return of student activities.

Our primary concern during our return to campus remains the health, safety and wellbeing of our students and staff.

Chief Health Officer's public health directive

The Queensland Chief Health Officer (CHO) has released a [public health direction](#), with specific application to universities. Under the directive, Universities must ensure large lectures are conducted with only seat one person per four square metres.

Smaller education and teaching sessions, including group seminars, tutorials, practicals and lab-based lessons, and vocational training sessions are NOT subject to the one-person per four-square-metre rule.

The CHO's directive is similar to the pragmatic approach taken in relation to schools. The University COVID-19 Expert Advisory Panel has reviewed the directive and based on it have established plans for the return to campus.

I have outlined below some key points regarding on-campus activities during this transition.

Lectures

Noting the CHO's advice, all lectures will remain online for the entirety of T2. There will be no on-campus or face-to-face lectures for T2 but our staff are working hard on producing some great online teaching for you.

Orientation

For those of you who are starting with us this trimester, we want to make sure that you are welcomed and given the information that you need to succeed. We know that some of you will be unable to join us in Queensland because of government regulations and we want to make sure that those of you who are here in person are kept safe for your first weeks.

For these reasons, Orientation activities for T2 will take place online. If you are about to commence with us, see [myOrientation](#) for details.

Weeks 1–4 (13 July to 7 August)

Most learning and teaching activities will remain online for the first four weeks. A range of learning activities that cannot be conducted online will however resume on campus. These include laboratories, clinics, studio work, performance-based activities and some work-integrated learning placements.

Some students will be permitted to return to campus, with priority given to final-year students and those at risk of not being able to complete their work.

Weeks 5–12 (17 August onwards)

From Week 5, you will have the option to experience a combination of online and face-to-face learning. The extent of the face-to-face activities will depend on the nature of your courses and the feasibility of bringing specific activities back onto campus.

Quality online teaching will also be maintained for all courses. You will have the opportunity to continue your studies online during T2 if you prefer or if you cannot come to campus.

See your course information in Learning@Griffith for details.

Placements

International work-integrated learning (WIL) placements remain suspended for T2.

Domestic WIL placements will resume where it is safe to do so. Students will only be placed in organisations with a COVID-Safe Plan, which details their compliance with social distancing and adherence to safe work practices.

Exams

Most exams will be conducted online in T2. Practical, professional and performance-related exams may be held on campus. Oral exams may be conducted face to face or online. More details on exams will be shared closer to the T2 exams period.

Hygiene and wellness

During the COVID-19 lockdown, our campuses underwent a deep clean in preparation for our return to campus.

When you arrive, you will notice hand sanitiser at the entrance of all our buildings for your use. Both students and staff are being asked to practise good hand hygiene.

Disinfectant wipes will also be provided in common learning spaces to enable you to reclean tables and chairs if you wish.

Most importantly, if you feel unwell, you should stay home and do not come to campus. This is the best way to protect yourselves, your fellow students and our staff.

Social distancing

In line with government health directives, social distancing remains in place. This means you should keep 1.5 meters apart from those around you, whenever possible on campus.

Support and services

Our [computer labs](#) and [health and medical centres](#) remain open on campus. Our other [support services](#), as well as the [Library](#), remain available online for the time being. Our on-campus libraries are due to reopen in T2.

Some Griffith food outlets have reopened, as have some of our fitness venues. See [shops](#) and [sport and recreation](#) for information on individual venues.

Thank you for your ongoing patience and resilience as we work through this transition.

I wish you all the best for your studies in Trimester 2.

It really hasn't been the same without you on our beautiful campuses and we look forward to seeing as many as possible of you in coming months.

Best wishes

Professor Carolyn Evans

Vice Chancellor and President
Griffith University

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