

Starting with Federation: Check in!

Hi *|FName|*,

Well who could have possibly anticipated the year we have had. We've skipped the last couple of 'Starting with Fed' emails as we felt you were already receiving a lot of information to digest, but think now is the time to kickstart these again and continue supporting your transition to Federation. A lot of the information that you would have received in Week Three and Four has been already included in our COVID-19 emails and FAQs; things like the different supports and academic services available to you.

This week is 'Health Check' – rather fitting in the current climate! We ask you to take care of yourself and each other (abiding by social distancing measures of course!) during this week. With lecture break approaching, it can be exhausting to push yourself to the finish line, especially with everything else going on in the world, and we want to help in any way we can. We are proud of the support services we have to offer you, so make sure you are familiar with them and use them whenever needed. And remember to utilise your academics and the support staff available to you, we really do love to help!

We understand it is a challenging time as we adapt to new ways of working, studying and living and so we are taking steps to help minimise anxiety around transitioning to online learning and can now confirm that, where you have demonstrated engagement with your studies **any course fails this semester will incur no academic penalty** and will not appear on your student transcripts.

We are also seeking to transition away from end of semester exams, wherever possible and are working closely with relevant accrediting bodies to ensure all professional requirements and standards are still met and developing suitable alternative assessment options. We will continue to keep you informed regularly in the coming weeks and provide further information about how this might relate to your courses of study.

Now let's have a look at what we'd like you to do this week ...

- Access the Study Skills website's 'Managing You' section.
- Assess where you are at, and acknowledge if you are struggling.
- Ask other students if they are okay.
- Be aware of the support services offered by Federation.
- Commit to some physical activity – remember that you can still leave your home for exercise, or if you'd prefer to stay indoors, google some 'at home workouts' to get the blood pumping!
- Check lecturer availability over the mid-semester break.
- Plan study for semester break.

Stay safe everyone, and remember that the Fed community is still here with you. We hope you all return to study on Monday 20 April, refreshed and raring to go!

Cheers, from all of us at your Student HQ

PS We have important info following ... Read on!

[Plan the break](#)
[Managing you](#)
[Student support](#)
[Promoting a culture of support](#)
[Get moving](#)
[Health and wellbeing](#)
[Important dates](#)

Plan the break

Remember that the mid-semester break is a lecture break, not holidays. Whilst you should enjoy some downtime, and make time to connect with loved ones, your lecturers will generally set assignments with the expectation that you will be working on these during this time, so make sure you do this as well!

For those of you who are new to online learning, it is a great opportunity to become familiar with this environment. It's also the perfect time to catch up if you have fallen behind or even to get ahead! And remember to ask your lecturers when they will be available during the break in case you have any questions about your assignments. You can get their contact details from your course description, or in the top right hand corner of your course [Moodle](#) shell.

Set yourself realistic goals for the lecture break and map out a plan of how you will achieve this. Be aware of your own [procrastination](#) habits and develop your [time-management](#) skills to avoid this. Download a [weekly planner](#) to really help yourself stay on track.

Managing you

We understand you may be feeling anxious about transitioning to online learning and would like to reassure you of our support for you during this time. To ensure you are not impacted financially or experience unnecessary anxiety, Federation has determined that where you engage with your studies, any course fails this semester will incur no academic penalty and will not appear on your student transcripts. But remember, **you must be engaged in your courses for this to apply** – be working through your Moodle shells, submitting your assessment pieces, collaborating with your fellow students, and connecting with your teaching staff.

Student support

We are committed to providing you with quality support through a range of services, programs and activities designed to be accessible, professional and responsive to your needs.

With programs and supports including [Equity and Diversity](#), the [Student Advisory Service](#), [Career Development & Employment](#), [Disability Support](#), and [Multicultural Student Support](#) to name but a few, [Student Connect](#) are dedicated to ensuring you have access to the support you may need.

Promoting a culture of support

Check in with your fellow students and ask how they are going. If you have concerns for anyone, advise them of the [support services](#) available and encourage them to seek support. Reflect on your own progress at University, and pat yourself on the back for making it this far!

Get moving

It is so important to be active, and we want you to get moving on campus or off. Keep an eye on the [sport and recreation](#) webpages – our Student Engagement team is working towards the release of an online program to help you stay active, and stay connected!

Health and wellbeing

Close to a campus? Remember that we do offer [health services](#) to students. Our [health services](#) webpages have been updated to reflect any changes to services as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Remember, you have access to our free [counselling](#) service offered remotely as well. With a commitment to professionalism, confidentiality, respect and empowerment, you should take advantage of this service whenever needed.

Important dates

Date	Event
2 Jan 2020	University opens for 2020
24 Jan 2020	Continuing students : timely enrolments close for Victorian campuses
27 Jan 2020	Australia Day public holiday (University closed)
24 Feb - 28 Feb 2020	Orientation week
2 Mar 2020	Semester 1 lectures/teaching period commence
9 Mar 2020	Labour Day public holiday (University closed)
13 Mar 2020	Last date to add courses to Semester 1 enrolment without financial penalty
30 Mar 2020	Transition to online study commences, with Wee Five classes
6 Apr – 17 Apr 2020	Semester 1 lecture break (includes Easter)
10 April – 14 April 2020	Easter (University closed)
20 Apr 2020	Semester 1 lectures recommence
27 Apr 2020	ANZAC Day (University closed)
30 Apr 2020	Census date: Last date to drop/withdraw from higher education courses for Semester 1 enrolment without incurring a HECS/fee debt
18 May 2020	Final exam timetable published
22 May 2020	Last date a W grade will be given automatically for a Semester 1 course
5 June 2020	Semester 1 lectures finish
8 Jun 2020	Queen's Birthday public holiday
9 Jun - 12 Jun 2020	Semester 1 SWOT Vac
15 Jun - 26 Jun 2020	Semester 1 examination period
29 Jun - 24 Jul 2020	Mid-year lecture break
13 Jul 2020	Results for Semester 1 published. mysc.federation.edu.au
18 Jul 2020	End of first semester
20 - 24 Jul 2020	Semester 1 deferred supplementary exam



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