

Coronavirus response - Federation University Australia

Friday 20 March 2020

Dear *|FName|*,

I would like to update you on Federation University's response to the coronavirus COVID-19 outbreak. As we advised students earlier this week, the university is preparing to move the majority of higher education programs online. This will occur from **Monday 30 March**. This email explains how that will work for higher education students, as well as information for TAFE students.

[We are also moving to implement the new social distancing guidelines that the Government has recommended for Universities from Monday March 23.](#)

TAFE

Our TAFE programs cannot be taught online because of the practical, competency-based nature of the programs. Federation TAFE, in line with the other TAFEs in Victoria, will continue to deliver programs on-campus as usual.

We are also working closely with the Victorian Government on alternative modes of delivering TAFE programs for all Victorian TAFEs in the coming weeks.

Online teaching and learning for Higher Education Students

The university will move the majority of undergraduate and post-graduate coursework programs to online delivery for semester one from Monday 30 March. Until then, all lectures and tutorials will continue on-campus as usual.

Online delivery means:

- There will be no more lectures and tutorials held on-campus
- Students will continue to access to learning resources via the university learning management system, Moodle
- Teaching and learning activities will be adapted by staff for an online learning environment
- Access to updated teaching and learning activities will be available through your Moodle shell, including links to virtual classroom technologies and virtual meeting spaces that can accommodate collaborative learning and enhance the student experience
- Students may also be provided with access to short videos and focused learning resources via a variety of digital media
- Existing course assessments scheduled throughout the semester will primarily remain the same but will be adapted for an online learning environment

Students already receive learning materials via moodle. This change means teaching activities will also be conducted via moodle. This could include videos from your lecturers, tests or online forums with a live discussion.

Exceptions

> Practical sessions

While much program content can be taught online, there are some exceptions, where practical skills are essential. These essential skills will continue to be delivered face-to-face. To meet the new social distancing guidelines, current sessions may be split into smaller groups so that students can maintain greater distance from each other. All details will be posted on your individual course Moodle shells.

> Placements

Many programs involve placements, such as nursing, education and social work. These practical placements are essential to the program and will continue for the foreseeable future. The university is working closely with placement providers, such as hospitals and schools, and we will continue to monitor the situation. Students should talk to their program coordinator if they have any questions about their placement.

> Arts Academy

A small number of Arts Academy programs will continue as usual with no move to online delivery. For many of these programs, such as performing arts, visual arts and graphic design, physical contact and practical work in small studios is essential. However, social distancing guidelines are being followed as staff make appropriate adjustments.

> Higher Degrees by Research

A separate communication has been sent to research students explaining the arrangements for Higher Degree by Research (HDR) students and supervisors during the COVID-19 pandemic, including areas such as scholarships, projects, laboratory facilities and supervision.

Accessing Student Academic Support

We will provide further communication to students next week on how to best access student academic support, particularly with the online transition required for semester one.

Enrolment

This is a challenging time for the whole community and we would like to reassure you that we remain absolutely committed to ensuring you receive the highest quality student services, teaching and learning as a Federation University or Federation TAFE student. **There is no need to change your enrolment.** We are simply changing the way we teach. Please talk to your program coordinator about your individual arrangements.

I sincerely hope you and your family stay well throughout this pandemic. We do not know how long the current situation will last, so I urge you to stay calm, don't panic and take every step as it comes. Please follow the University's updates via the university [website](#).

Best regards,

Professor Andy Smith
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic)
Federation University Australia



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