



Coronavirus response - Federation University Australia

Monday 1 June 2020

Dear Student,

I'm pleased to be able share with you the first steps on our path forward to a new beginning in a post-lockdown world.

Our Deans and school leadership have spent the past week closely analysing the needs of our most important stakeholders: you, our students, to prepare us on our pathway towards on-campus operations.

There are some groups within our University community who need to return to on-campus and face-to-face teaching, which I can share with you today.

For the majority, though, the following government advice continues to apply: **if you can work from home – you must work from home. This includes studying online.** This significantly reduces the risk of spreading COVID-19.

First steps back to campus – 1 June to 17 July

We plan to start bringing a very small number of staff and students onto campus from 1 June to 17 July, for our first block on our new path.

For those about to resume on-campus activities, please be assured that we will have stringent health and safety measures in place as part of our *COVIDSafe Plan*. This plan has been developed in accordance with Commonwealth Government requirements, to make sure you are protected.

In the past week, Deans and Directors have been using the *COVIDSafe Plan* to identify those students with the highest need to begin some of their activities on campus, and the staff needed to support these activities.

Each plan has been submitted to university leadership to ensure formal review and risk assessment occurs before any decisions are made about the beginning of on-campus activities.

Staff and students in the first group to begin on-campus activities are being contacted directly by University staff, so please do not attend campus if you have not been contacted directly.

The following student groups have been prioritised for a progressive transition to conduct some 'defined activities' on campus:

- students who need to complete pracs and labs for placements
- research students who need to finish off projects
- some postgraduate students needing to complete a short laboratory project to complete their degrees.

This is the start of some on-campus activities. The staff and students who are invited to come onto campus to engage in these activities are asked to return home after they've finished, to minimise any COVID-19 risks.

Plans for semester two

Teaching and learning will look different in semester two.

We will continue on our path of online delivery, and will progressively blend this with defined on-campus activities. For instance, we will have small class groups, appropriate health and safety measures in place for pracs and labs, but large lectures will not be a feature in 2020.

Decision making

University leadership will meet at the start of each week to assess who should resume activities on campus, based on the priorities I have listed above.

We will move through the transition methodically and in short blocks of time, to ensure that we provide a safe work and study environment for our staff and students, that can be adapted to government health and safety requirements.

Moving cautiously will allow us to pause and adapt along the way to minimise any potential risk or exposure to COVID-19.

As we progress, we will make sure that you are informed about our decisions by sending out weekly updates. Please remember, you can also find information via our [Coronavirus response page](#).

Best regards,

Professor Helen Bartlett
Vice-Chancellor and President
Federation University Australia



[Facebook](#)



[Twitter](#)



[Website](#)



[Email](#)



[Instagram](#)



[YouTube](#)