



Update on Semester 1 classes

7 February 2022

Dear students,

After careful consideration of NSW public health settings, we are pleased to confirm that the University will return to on-campus teaching for Semester 1. This decision has been made on the basis of up-to-date, evidence-based expert advice – including that of our own medical and public health researchers – and our approach aligns with those being taken by other universities in the Sydney metropolitan area.

As we reactivate our vibrant campus life we will continue to follow public health guidance, taking all reasonable precautions to minimise the transmission of COVID-19 and safeguard our community. We recognise that some students have additional vulnerabilities to COVID-19 and we will accommodate the needs of these students as necessary. We are also committed to providing remote learning for international students who have not yet returned to Australia.

Semester 1 classes

Semester 1 classes will begin on Monday 21 February for most courses. Study arrangements are outlined below.

- Students are expected to enrol in on-campus classes wherever they are offered, unless you are located offshore or have a [declared vulnerability](#).
- Large classes of more than 120 students may be offered in a live and interactive online format.
- Most smaller lectures, seminars and tutorials (up to 120 students) as well as all practical activities, such as laboratories, studios and performances, will return to campus.
- Offshore students will continue to be offered classes in remote mode at least for Semester 1. With borders now open, we encourage international students to make arrangements to travel to Sydney as soon as possible. Students should plan to return before the start of Semester 2.
- A small number of courses have alternative semester timings and study arrangements. Information about these courses will be communicated directly.

More information about study arrangements in Semester 1 can be found on the [Study Information page](#).

Students with vulnerabilities

While we encourage and expect students to be on campus for classes, we recognise that the [health risk of COVID-19 is greater](#) for those with declared vulnerabilities, such as people who:

- are over 60
- are pregnant, or have a newborn

- are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander
- have a disability
- have a compromised immune system
- are carers for, or live with, people who fit the above groups.

In cases where a unit of study is available in both on campus and remote delivery, students who fall into one of the above categories may wish to enrol in the remote option. Please be aware some classes will not have a remote option due to face-to-face requirements.

Additional safety precautions

In addition to our [Conditions of Entry](#), which continue to apply to everyone who comes to campus, additional precautions have been put in place to support a safe return to face-to-face classes.

- All classes have been timetabled to maximise physical distancing.
- All facilities have been assessed against SafeWork Australia indoor ventilation guidelines with classes only timetabled for spaces that have appropriate levels of ventilation.
- The University has implemented an enhanced cleaning regimen to minimise the risk of COVID transmission. We are continually reviewing our cleaning protocols in line with the latest advice from SafeWork Australia.
- Notifications of [positive COVID case locations](#) on campus are published on the University website.

Staff and students who are unwell or have any symptoms should not come to campus.

- If you become infected with COVID during the semester, or need to isolate, we expect you to notify your unit of study coordinator as a courtesy, as you would with any unexpected absence.
- If isolation impacts assessment, students may use the usual mechanisms including simple extensions and special circumstance to arrange reasonable adjustments.

More information about [managing positive COVID cases](#) on campus is available on our website.

Welcome Week and welcome back

Orientation activities are well underway with Welcome Week beginning next Monday 14 February to welcome our new students and welcome back our returning students. I am looking forward to meeting as many of you as I can, as we bring to life the campus with our extended program of Welcome Week events. [Visit the Welcome to 2022 website](#) to find out more about the activities that are planned.

While many students will be excited to be on campus, we understand some of you may be feeling anxious. We encourage students to access our [support and wellbeing services](#), and to reach out to one another and to the University as we continue to adjust to our changing environment.

We look forward to seeing you on campus soon.

Regards,
Mark

Mark Scott
Vice-Chancellor and Principal

CRICOS provider: 00026A ABN: 15 211 513 46

Copyright © 2022 The University of Sydney, NSW 2006 Australia

Phone +61 2 9351 2222 ABN 15 211 513 464 CRICOS Number: 00026A

Please add university.communications@sydney.edu.au to your address book or senders safe list to make sure you continue to see our emails in the future.

[Disclaimer](#) | [Privacy statement](#) | [University of Sydney](#)