



20 February 2024

Week 1, Semester 1

It's the first week of classes! We hope you had a ball at Welcome Fest last week. Don't forget that our Welcome Program continues up until Week 4, so there are still plenty of activities for you to meet new people and make the most of campus life. Check out the [Welcome Planner](#) to browse our Extended Welcome Program activities.

We're here to support you as you begin the new academic year. This week, we chat to students about what Mardi Gras means to them ahead of the parade on Saturday 2 March, share details of how to update your preferred name, pronouns and gender in Sydney Student, and plenty more.

Top stories



Mardi Gras 2024: Our fearless future

The 2024 Mardi Gras Festival is taking over our glittering city of Sydney from Friday 16 February to Sunday 3 March. [We chat to four students about their LGBTQIA+ lived experience and how they plan on celebrating Mardi Gras this year.](#)



University of Sydney MBA program ranks first in Australia

[The Business School's full-time Master of Business Administration \(MBA\) program has been ranked first in Australia](#) and 63rd globally in the Financial Times global MBA rankings. This accomplishment comes in the program's first year of eligibility, making it the highest new entrant.



Win a pride tote bag featuring artwork by Jeremy W. Smith

To celebrate Mardi Gras, we're giving away 20 pride tote bags to Sydney students! To win, [head to our Instagram and tell us in 25 words or less what you're most looking forward to at Mardi Gras](#) this year. The competition is open now until 5 pm on Wednesday 21 February.

Courageous Conversations: An evening with Grace Tame and guests



Join Grace Tame and an expert panel on Thursday 29 February to discuss respectful dialogues around consent, sexual harassment and sexual assault. As part of our Extended Welcome Program, [Courageous Conversations](#) is free and will take place at our Camperdown Campus. Spaces are limited and registrations essential.

Need to know

- Double check your units of study. Friday 1 March is the deadline for adding Semester 1 units of study. You may have access to a unit in Canvas but that doesn't always mean you're properly enrolled. Log in to [Sydney Student](#) to check your units – go to 'My studies', then 'Units of study'.
- Did you know that you can [update your preferred name, pronouns or gender in Sydney Student](#) at any time? Updating your personal details will allow us to refer to you correctly and help us create a safe and inclusive environment for everyone.

Asbestos contaminated mulch

The NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) has contacted the University as part of its investigation into asbestos contaminated mulch across NSW, advising that a small amount of mulch the University purchased from a third party may be contaminated.

We have identified where the mulch has been used and are fencing off the following three locations for testing. While the mulch is undisturbed its presence does not pose a significant risk to our community.

- Science Road, opposite Heydon-Laurence Building (A08)
- Manning Road, near John Woolley Building (A20)
- Wilkinson Axis, near a pedestrian footpath between Science Road and Manning Road.

You can continue to move around campus as normal, but you should avoid the signposted areas disclosed above. We will keep you updated as the situation evolves. For more information, visit the [notices page](#).

Welcome Survey

Our Welcome Program is held before the start of each semester and is a celebration of all students, new and continuing, coming together to immerse themselves in university life. Semester 1 celebrations started Monday 5 February and run until Week 4.

Take our [Welcome Program Survey](#) to let us know what you think of the program so far, and what you'd like to see more of. The survey takes approximately five minutes to complete, and all answers are anonymous.

Welcome Fest 2024 wrap-up

Check out all the action and performances from Welcome Fest and hear students' favourite moments, from freebies to meeting new friends, with our [Welcome Fest 2024 wrap-up video](#).

Sustainability events

Ride through quiet streets to quick eats

Explore popular foodie haunts as you cycle through Darlington to Newtown on a [free guided bicycle tour](#) this Wednesday 21 February. Don't have a bike? No worries!

Discover the basics of indoor plant care

Join the Sustainability Team and the USYD Gardening Society in a hands-on workshop on 28 February, where you'll learn the basics of [how to care for indoor native plants](#). Take

We've partnered with Lime to offer free access to share bikes for the ride.

your plant home and watch it grow and bloom alongside your semester calendar.



Grow from academic setbacks and increase your resilience

The Comeback Crew is a small and friendly group designed to help students overcome academic failure. Using modern psychological frameworks, Comeback Crew members experience facilitated

therapeutic discussion, new ways of interpreting their challenges and strategies to increase resilience, all while developing a sense of community and connection at University.

Sessions take place each Tuesday from 5 March until 28 May and will run from 10–11:15 am. If you'd like to attend, please [register your expression of interest to join the Comeback Crew](#).

Understanding disability, inclusion and accessibility

The University is dedicated to ensuring that all students have equal access to learning. Please visit the student website to explore the [inclusion and disability services](#) and adjustments available to help you succeed at University, including support for carers.



Convert your documents and media files for accessibility

Sensus Access is an easy to use and free program offered by the University of Sydney for students to [learn how to convert your lecture notes, media files and webpages into a range of accessible and alternate formats](#).



Making digital content and information accessible for all

Complete the [Digital Accessibility for Content Creators](#) training course in Canvas to discover essential digital accessibility skills for

developing, designing, or editing digital content.



Learn more about disability and the support services available

Unpack some common misconceptions about disability and sharing information about disability, and find out how the University can support you by completing the [Demystifying Disability module](#) in Canvas.

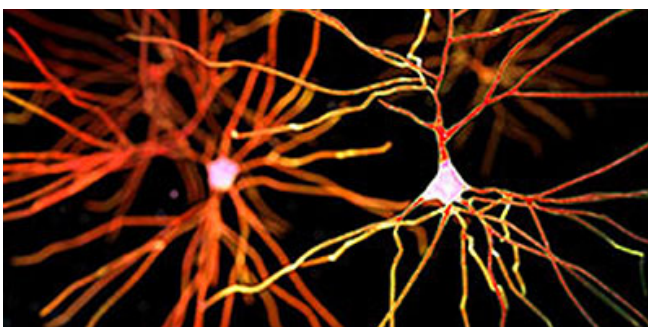


Hack a museum object, make friends, and win cash prizes

Open to all students and part of our Extended Welcome Program, the [Museum Hack competition](#) challenges small teams to choose a museum object and use it as the basis to create something new – a sculpture, music, painting, video, podcast, short story, blueprint/ prototype designs, the options are endless!

The competition kicks off on 28 February at the Chau Chak Wing Museum (CCWM) from 10:30 am–12 pm. Winners and runners-up will be announced at the [Museum Hack – Prize Giving Event](#) on 29 February from 3:30–5 pm at the CCWM, with light refreshments provided.

What's happening at the University of Sydney



The future of life science, biotech and medtech

Are you an innovator or budding entrepreneur with an idea that needs financial backing? Find out what a venture capital partner is looking for in a pitch and hear insights from experts at the free online event [Unlocking Innovations](#) on 29 February.

Battle it out by the deck or on the board

Love playing games like exploding kittens, UNO, monopoly deal and pictionary? Fuel your friendly competitive nature, make new pals and enjoy free snacks at [Boardgame Fridays](#), hosted by your

Peer Support Advisors every Friday during semester.

It's never too late to learn gymnastics

Open to all students and fun for all ability levels, the Sydney Uni Gymnastics Club is hosting a [Gymnastics Welcome Workshop](#) for \$15, from 12:30–2:30 pm on Friday 8 March. Learn a range of skills, including handstands, jumping from mini-trampolines, and functional strength exercises through a highly interactive class.

Nominations are now open for Graduate Medals

Each year, six Graduate Medals are awarded to our newest alumni in recognition of their visionary leadership, excellence, dedication and commitment to their field. Do you know an exceptional graduate? Visit the [Alumni Awards webpage](#) for eligibility guidelines and nominate a peer for a Graduate Medal by 20 March 2024.

Say g'day to Aussie slang and culture

Make new friends as you practise English at USU's fortnightly [G'Day Gatherings](#). Learn Aussie slang, get your head around Australian sporting culture and discover popular cuisine over six fortnightly sessions. Plus, enjoy free food from Manning Cantina!



Micro Markets are here!

Micro Markets are self-service convenience stores stocked daily with a range of fresh and nutritious food and drinks. Purchase items via an easy-to-use, cashless kiosk or request specific items you'd like on campus.

Micro Markets are available at:

- H70 Sydney Business School (Level 1, Student Commons)
- F07 Carslaw Building (Level 2) and
- J02 PNR Building (Level 2).

Student resources

[Student website](#) | [Canvas](#) | [Student Portal](#) | [Sydney Student](#) | [Key dates](#) | [Student life, wellbeing and support](#) | [Scams support](#)

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We recognise and pay respect to the Elders and communities – past, present, and emerging – of the lands that the University of Sydney's campuses stand on. For thousands of years they have shared and exchanged knowledges across innumerable generations for the benefit of all. [Learn more.](#)

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.

Have news? [Share it with us](#)