DELIVERING AN OUTSTANDING STUDENT EXPERIENCE

THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA’S TEACHING AND LEARNING PLAN FOR 2012-2015
Welcome

In 2011 the University of South Australia was ranked in the top five overall of 28 Australian tertiary institutions evaluated as part of the International Student Barometer. We also scored above the national average for broad overall satisfaction in the annual Australian Graduate Survey, Course Experience Questionnaire.

However, in the increasingly competitive, deregulated marketplace, we need to continue to improve on our successes.

The University’s Teaching and Learning Strategic Plan 2012-2015 is designed to chart our course towards the ambitious goals we set for this University in our Horizon 2020 plan. Chief amongst these goals is to produce an outstanding student experience and exceptional graduates. To do this we are designing, managing and delivering curricula of the highest quality and recognising and rewarding outstanding teaching and learning. We are maintaining our strong commitment to existing and potential students by creating a student environment that allows them to make the most of their student experience … and providing excellent employment outcomes when they graduate. We are also ensuring that equity and diversity remain as core values in our teaching and learning.

We are investing $23.7 million to implement the Teaching and Learning Strategic Plan 2012-2015. We invite you to take a closer look at our plans so that you know your students will have the best possible university experience and employment outcomes.
Delivering an outstanding experience for students

Creating exceptional graduates for the world

Students at the University of South Australia will develop the knowledge, skills and qualities to contribute positively and creatively to the challenges of the future. To bring this about we have focused our energies around six themes which, together, will produce graduates who are recognised for their outstanding ability to communicate effectively, solve problems, think critically and embrace lifelong learning.

The six themes are:
Theme 1: Curriculum design, management and delivery
Theme 2: Graduate Outcomes
Theme 3: Student recruitment and profile of student body
Theme 4: The Student experience
Theme 5: Rewarding and developing staff
Theme 6: Equity Practice

By 2015 the University of South Australia aims to be rated in the top 20 per cent of Australian universities for teaching, with our student satisfaction levels on par with the top 10 institutional results across the nation. We will attract the highest share of state undergraduate first preferences (excluding medicine), and our bachelor degree graduates will record the highest percentage in the state for full-time employment in professional occupations.
Our programs are informed and innovative

The educational experience we offer students will be defined by its real-world application, links to leading international research, learning through external service and practice-based education.

We will develop the curriculum so that students will have high quality interaction with academics and will also learn from our best researchers. We will offer innovative modes of study so that students have more choice in delivery mode, load and timing of their studies and we’ll make sure that students have plenty of opportunities for work integrated learning so they can succeed as professionals or in research-based careers.

At left: The fully-equipped television studio at the University’s Magill campus is a multifunctional flexible space with three high definition cameras, a chroma green screen which features virtual sets and an extensive range of fluorescent and selecon lighting.

At left: The new $95 million Learning Centre currently under construction at the University’s City West campus will provide a new level of student experience. It will feature a mix of student spaces such as active and reflective learning spaces, dedicated places for research and Honours students as well as social spaces.
Theme 2: Graduate Outcomes

Our students are prepared to take on the world

Our students will have the opportunity to develop discipline-specific knowledge and practice and will be given the skills to bring that knowledge and ability to future employers. We will review the University’s Graduate Qualities and learning outcomes so that they better align with, and are proof of, our standards of teaching and learning and those standards required by employers.

We will also develop our students’ international perspectives, while also enhancing their understanding of indigenous cultures and social issues.

Our graduates will receive an international and intercultural educational experience embracing collaborative enquiry and mutual respect and understanding.

Ruth Vogelsang
Graduated - Bachelor of Laboratory Medicine

‘I loved the clinical placement component of the program. I did mine at Alice Springs with SA Pathology and it was one of the best experiences of my life. Going to a rural or remote area was great, and I was offered a job upon graduation. I’m absolutely loving my first job as a Medical Scientist and finding it a great learning experience. I was also very honoured to be awarded with the IMVS (now known as SA Pathology) scholarship, which also contributed to securing my full-time job.’
Theme 3: Student recruitment and profile of student body

Our student population will be diverse

We will make sure that anyone with previous educational disadvantage, or who wants to return to study, has a pathway to that study. We’ll develop and implement strategies to increase the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and improve our connections with TAFE and private VET providers. We’ll also develop new postgraduate programs and work to increase the number of Honours, postgraduate coursework and research students.

In a diverse student body, all students will have the opportunity to incorporate skills associated with online learning within their degree programs.
Theme 4: Student experience

Our students will enjoy the experience

The University of South Australia will work closely with its students to develop an holistic student experience that builds social networks and connectedness, develops the leaders of the future and contributes to a cohesive, sustainable society.

Building on the feedback from our students, we will deliver teaching that is highly valued by our students, with formal and informal learning spaces that sustain high levels of interaction and small group learning. We’ll implement a lecture recording system and teaching technology support to make sure that all students have access to quality lectures online. We’ll identify students who are not engaging with their studies and offer a range of effective intervention strategies. We will support student led activities to ensure a vibrant intellectual, social, cultural and sporting experience. We’ll help students build social networks and develop leadership skills and make sure that they have the opportunity to take part in credit-bearing study abroad or Global Experience. All our graduates will be able to access ‘soft skills’ building seminars for five years after graduating, including online webinars accessible to offshore students.
Theme 5: Rewarding and developing staff

We’ll make sure they have the best teachers

To produce graduates who will represent and influence all sections of society their teachers must be among the best. Our teachers, learning spaces, technology-rich approaches and social environment will attract, motivate, challenge and excite students from a wide range of backgrounds.

We will invest at least $1 billion in additional infrastructure, new initiatives and improved services to achieve our ambitions and support a series of major institutional developments, including a major building at the City West campus which will integrate smart learning spaces, learning resources and student support services.

Teaching and learning will be the centrepiece of our performance management practices, and promotion criteria and applicants for promotion will need verified evidence of their excellent performance and standards. We will make sure that academics make the most of opportunities offered by learnonline and the new learning spaces and we’ll support research and publication that improves the student experience in higher education.

Associate Professor Mahfuz Aziz, PhD
Engineering, winner of the 2009 Prime Minister’s Award for Australian University Teacher of the Year

‘Fundamentally, one has to have a passion for teaching. I try to engage students in what’s happening in the class because if they’re not engaged, then learning is not effective. We try to create a scenario students will actually face in their professional career, give them a bit of flavour of what is it like to be an engineer.

The Prime Minister’s Award was certainly a surprise and a great privilege. I guess a lot of the credit goes to my colleagues, and to my students who I have worked with over many years in Australia.
Theme 6: Equity practice

Our programs will be accessible

The University of South Australia builds social cohesion by achieving equitable educational access and outcomes across our diverse student community. We’ll provide appropriate services for students from diverse backgrounds or with different learning needs and disabilities to facilitate their academic success, and we’ll make sure that equity-based scholarships are fully allocated. We’ll further develop teaching methods and materials that give students knowledge of different cultures, including indigenous cultures, required for professional practice, and we’ll encourage staff to improve their knowledge to better teach it.

Jacqui Ewens


‘I travelled to Ghana through UniSA’s Hawke Ambassador International Volunteer Experience program and it was above and beyond anything I expected. I’m really grateful for the Cowan International Placement Grant which took a huge financial pressure off me. After travelling through Africa a few years earlier and witnessing the poverty, I had promised myself I would go back as a volunteer. My time in Ghana was challenging but amazing and the experience has not only complemented and enhanced my degree, but also helped me grow as a person.’
Further information

The University’s Deans of Teaching and Learning provide institution-wide and Division-focused leadership, promoting and supporting the distinctive teaching and learning priorities and the student experience agenda of the University of South Australia. Their focus is on strengthening the quality of the teaching and student experience, benchmarking performance and identifying curriculum development opportunities at both the disciplinary and interdisciplinary levels.

The Deans:

Professor Vicki Waye .............................................. Division of Business
www.unisa.edu.au/Business

Associate Professor Lynne Badger ......................... Division of Education, Arts and Social Sciences
www.unisa.edu.au/Education-Arts-and-Social-Sciences

Professor Esther May
(Dean: Health and Clinical Education) ...................... Division of Health Sciences
www.unisa.edu.au/Health-Sciences

Associate Professor Brenton Dansie ....................... Division of Information Technology, Engineering and the Environment

Associate Professor Judy Nagy
(Associate Dean: Teaching and Learning) ............... Centre for Regional Engagement
www.unisa.edu.au/CRE

Professor Margaret Hicks
(Director Learning and Teaching Unit) ..................... Learning and Teaching Unit
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