

**2 April, 12.19pm**

**All student email from Professor David G. Lloyd, Vice Chancellor and President**

Dear Students,

I know your email inboxes have been filled with communication from the University lately, both from me and your Course Coordinators and Program Directors. But as we get closer to the weekend, I wanted to reach out again to just briefly confirm a few matters for you.

I hope that you are well and for those of you who have temporarily transitioned from face-to-face to online learning I hope the first two weeks of studying online has gone well for you. I know that there may have been some initial glitches for some of you in the transition, for which I can only apologise and ask for your continued patience. I also note that some of you are waiting for delayed practicums, labs and studios – please be assured that a lot of work is going on to ensure we can provide you with all you need to sustain your studies in UniSA. By the time you return to study after the mid-semester break, we will be in a position to provide additional clarity around future arrangements.

We want to do everything we can to help you succeed in your studies and gain all the long-term benefits that study can provide, while staying safe and well. You may also wish to access the range of study supports that are available through the Student Engagement Unit here: [Study supports](#)

- **Grace period for enrolment**

Can I remind students enrolled in Study Period 2 courses that while the University's official census date remained unchanged as at 31 March, we have introduced a 'grace' period; until 1 May. If you need it, this gives you some extra time to assess your own situation, think about your study plans, and make choices without any financial penalty or an entry on your academic transcript.

Please check out the Frequently Asked Questions and further information here: [Student FAQs](#).

- **UniSA Hardship Fund**

I want to highlight to you that the University has established a dedicated \$10 million fund to support those in severe financial circumstances as a result of COVID-19. This fund is now open to all students enrolled for onshore study in UniSA at all levels. We understand that the current situation has impacted on many through loss of employment and other unexpected costs. The fund has been established to assist those most in need of support right now and complements the wide range of support available across the University.

**You can access information on this fund, its criteria, and how to apply for support here: [Student Hardship Fund](#).**

The University has also reached out to its alumni community, and the wider public and network of UniSA partners, to offer them the opportunity to add to this fund, and you'll be

pleased to know we are already received donations from around the world. The UniSA community is a very strong one and that is something that we can all be proud of.

- **Grades and academic progression**

We've had a number of emails and queries from students about whether the university intends to modify its grade recording processes during the ongoing health crisis – primarily as students are adapting to temporary new modes of learning. I want to let you know that we are looking into this in great detail – above all else, we have to ensure the academic integrity of all our assessments and processes to underpin the value of your degree and studies for you and your future careers. Through that lens, I want to reassure you that academic progression considerations will be thoroughly examined by the University (in consultation with Academic Board which includes student membership) in the coming weeks. We will provide clear information for all students prior to the conclusion of the grace period.

- **New academic structures**

This piece of news has nothing to do with COVID-19, which is a welcome change in these uncertain times. I wanted to remind you that UniSA's academic structures are transitioning from our historical organisation of Divisions and Schools, to our [seven new Academic Units](#) on Monday of next week. This won't impact on you or your studies, but you'll notice changes to our websites and how we describe the structure of the university rolling out in the next while. All students will receive further information early next week in relation to their own Academic Unit.

- **Health and well-being**

We understand that times like these are stressful. This is a time to take special care of yourself and look out for your friends and each other. Health and wellbeing supports are available from our Student Engagement Unit at <https://i.unisa.edu.au/studentssupportservices>. Please reach out and connect with these services for advice and support at any time you feel the need.

And of course for all other study related enquiries you can also contact [Campus Central](#).

Can I also ask that you please keep in regular contact with us and raise any issues with your course coordinator or program director.