

March 23, 3.47pm

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

Dear Students

As you're most likely aware, the situation regarding Australia's response to the COVID-19 pandemic has developed significantly over the weekend.

In accordance with the latest Federal and State advice, requirements and restrictions, UniSA has now decided to suspend all face-to-face class teaching from the close of business today until Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April.

This period includes the Easter break and the two week mid-semester break for students enrolled in Study Period 2 courses.

Your course coordinators will already have contacted you about online lectures and tutorials. These are continuing as scheduled and more content will be added to the online schedules in the coming week.

However, to be clear, there will be no face-to-face tutorials, practicals, studios or any other class teaching from close of business today until 27<sup>th</sup> April.

This directive applies to all UniSA teaching activities, including those run through third-party providers.

This decision to suspend face-to-face class teaching activities until April 27<sup>th</sup> was taken to ensure that we can fully meet all requirements for social distancing in the operations of the university. There are a small number of face-to-face teaching activities which require significant modification and adaptation in order to ensure that best health protection measures can be observed for all staff and students – and these adaptations will simply take time to plan and implement properly.

We will do our utmost to ensure continuity of quality education for all our students and especially for those students who are in the final year of their academic programs, working to ensure that they can complete their studies within their currently anticipated time-frame, without any compromise of our focus on the health, safety and well-being of our whole community.

There are a small number of activities which are currently not subject to the suspension:

- Students on external placements where the external provider agrees to continuation of the placement and where the student can continue with their placement requirements
- Examinations currently being held for students enrolled in Study Period 1 courses
- Students based in health clinics that are providing an essential support service to our community at this time.

As you have no doubt noticed, this is an ever-shifting landscape, with new changes and external requirements imposed on a near-daily basis. I know that this adds to confusion and indeed causes anxiety, and I do wish that it was otherwise as we navigate uncharted waters.

I fully understand the ongoing frustrations that are caused by the continually changing situation. Fortunately, UniSA's digital learning strategy gives us the confidence that we have the capabilities to facilitate online teaching and learning, putting us all in an excellent position to ensure you can continue to meaningfully engage with your studies for the remainder of this period of disruption.

It is not just our core business of teaching and research which is being impacted right now. In line with yesterday's announcement of enhanced social distancing measures and venue restrictions, UniSA has closed all of its gyms, pools and indoor sporting facilities, and student lounges across all campuses, from 12 noon today. Many of our on-campus food outlets across all campuses have also made the decision to close, considering the new restrictions.

There is no element of our operations that has not in some way had to adapt rapidly to support the appropriate response to the ongoing pandemic.

As always, I ask that you please familiarise yourself with the staff and student FAQs on the [COVID-19 coronavirus information webpage](#). This is the most up-to-date and informed repository of University COVID-19 resources.

I also re-iterate the current public health advice – if you are feeling unwell, please do not attend at the university until fully recovered, seek the appropriate medical advice as required and act to minimise the risk of infection for others.

Students with questions relating to their study can contact [Campus Central](#). For any student enquires relating to health and wellbeing please contact [seu@unisa.edu.au](mailto:seu@unisa.edu.au) for assistance, advice and support. Staff may also contact [seu@unisa.edu.au](mailto:seu@unisa.edu.au) if they have any questions or concerns regarding a student's health or wellbeing.

Your course coordinator is best placed to provide specific information for you regarding what you'll be studying online and what other provisions will be put in place from the 27<sup>th</sup> April to appropriately replace or adapt face-to-face tuition.

Ours is a strong and tightly-knit community, capable of great things – we have proven that time and again over many years.

This current challenge will pass, in time, and I ask for your patience and understanding as we work to ensure continuity of education and research training provision to you. Also, please remember that despite social distancing, human connection and compassion at times like these are critical, let's not lose sight of that, even as we move online.