

February 18, 2.12 pm

All staff email from Chief Academic Services Officer, Professor Marie Wilson

UniSA Colleagues,

I am writing to update you on our support for students impacted by the travel restrictions related to COVID-19 (coronavirus), and the implications for teaching and academic support in the weeks ahead.

Students who have already arrived in Australia or who are able to meet border entry requirements because they have not been in, or transited, China in the past 14 days, will be able to study on-campus. Orientation starts on Monday 24th February, classes start the week of Monday 2nd March, and the last day to enrol is 13th March.

However, the travel restrictions, and reduced airline services mean that over 1000 of our students will not make it to Adelaide in time to start SP2 on campus. We want to welcome them back to campus, and until they can arrive in Adelaide, we are providing them with options to study flexibly or online.

The Schools and Divisions are working with UniSA International (UI), Student Administration (SAS) and the Student Engagement Unit (SEU) to offer students the opportunity to study flexibly using existing external (EXT) offerings or course sites, supplemented with online tutorials and mentoring. Students will then join the on-campus classes when they are able to travel to Adelaide.

For many students, UniSA Online is also an option, with the next UO study period commencing in April, and satisfying core or elective options in many programs. UO has offered to open more SP3 courses for single course enrolments if these are required.

Both Flexible and Online delivery have been supported by ISTS identifying a Chinese portal option that will allow all our UniSA resources to be accessed by students in China.

I'd like to thank the fantastic teams across almost every area of the University that have worked together to ensure impacted students are able to complete secondary assessments, prepare for graduation, and progress their degrees. Dedicated teams have organised support for students in self-isolation, found new ways to enable pre-work for placements, redesigned study plans and found innovative ways to accommodate students who need our help, while dealing with thousands of communications across email and social media.

Academic staff throughout the University are working on new study plans for these students and have access to student lists, copies of student communications, FAQs, and the support of professional central staff teams.

When we know all the courses that will be enrolling, travel restriction impacted students, additional information and support will be available to the course coordinators, and program and course support staff. We are all working together as one team to enable these students to succeed.

I have written to every student impacted by the travel restrictions to assure them that at UniSA:

"Your success in learning is our highest priority. You are very much a part of the University of South Australia and we can't wait to welcome you to the campus and our community."

The focus on students, the generosity of approach in responding to this health emergency, and the creative and collaborative efforts of so many of us, reminds us all, of the very things that make UniSA distinctively unstoppable.

In the days ahead, we will be welcoming almost 30,000 students to UniSA campuses and programs, while we continue to innovate to allow the students who have not made it to Adelaide yet to study, engage and succeed.

Thank you for your support in making this happen.

Communications to students and staff will be updated here regularly and links to relevant fact sheets from the Department of Health are also provided.