

Learning and Teaching Approach for Semesters 1, 2 and 3 2021

The following guidance has been developed to support the planning for learning and teaching activities in 2021. The guidance is to be read in conjunction with the COVID Safe Plan Framework, and is subject to change as the pandemic situation evolves.

Approach to Teaching and Learning in 2021

- **All learning experiences are to be designed to facilitate active engagement** that include opportunities for student-teacher, student-student and student-industry interaction and collaboration, whether online or on-campus.¹
- The **Minimum Requirements for Online Teaching and Learning** are to be incorporated into courses so that all USQ students, whether campus-based or fully online, use digital technologies in support of their learning. This is in line with a 'digital first' approach to learning and teaching that maximises the use of digital technologies and provides flexibility and choice for students about when and where to participate.
- **Where lectures are included in a course, they are to be conducted online** (there will be no didactic lectures timetabled on-campus). In line with Minimum Online Requirement 6, recorded online lectures are available on the StudyDesk as 15-20-minute learning 'chunks' with a short activity provided for students to complete at the end of each 'chunk'.
- During 2021 **we will develop systems and processes to timetable** all synchronous face-to-face and synchronous online learning activities.
- **All on-campus learning and teaching activities are to be active and interactive**, focusing on learning experiences that are enhanced through face-to-face and hands-on learning experiences (all lectures to be conducted online see point above).
- **Mandatory on-campus course components** (e.g. practical classes, residential schools, laboratories, studios) that are a requirement for course completion **are to be held on-campus**.² These will all be interactive and involve active engagement by students.
- **Staff who facilitate on-campus learning and teaching activities, who support the facilitation of on-campus learning and teaching activities, or who support on-campus students, are to be on-campus** to provide these activities/support. Exceptions to this approach must be approved by the Executive Dean/Director as applicable.
- **Placements will continue to be managed** in conjunction with placement providers, and cohorts will be advised individually of any changes, as necessary.
- In accord with the implementation of the revised **Assessment Procedure** and **Assessment Types Schedule** (approved for implementation from S2, 2021):
 - a. Resources and examples will be available to support the design and review of assessment to minimise risks to academic integrity, and
 - b. On-campus paper-based invigilated examinations will not be conducted in 2021. Assessment items scheduled during the formal examination period can include take-home examinations, time-limited online examinations or online viva voce. All online assessments scheduled during the formal examinations period must be timetabled by the Examinations Office. If absolutely necessary in order to meet the requirements of professional accrediting bodies, online invigilated examinations may be held if endorsed by the Executive Dean or Director, USQ College and approved by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic).

COVID Principles

1. The University's primary concern continues to be the **health and safety of our staff and students**.
2. The University will maintain **COVID-safe Campus Plans** which apply to common areas and non-teaching spaces. Key elements of the Plans include:
 - a. All members of the USQ community **sharing responsibility for the safe use** of University facilities, including abiding by social distancing protocols, maximum room limits, maintaining personal hygiene practices, wearing masks where and when requested, and supporting cleaning protocols as appropriate.
 - b. Encouraging staff and students, to **download the COVID-Safe App and SafeZone app**, which can be used to check in and out when attending classes on campus.
 - c. Making **reasonable adjustments for vulnerable students** to continue with their studies.

¹ Responds to [TEQSA meta-analysis](#) of students' COVID L&T experiences, with "reduced interaction with academic staff and peers" being one of students' primary negative experiences.

² subject to the completion and approval of associated risk management plans by the relevant Executive Dean.