

# Frequently Asked Questions

Charles Darwin University  
International Pathway College  
Online Study Period



**Q: When does the course start if I choose to start my studies online?**

A: The course will start on 20th July.

**Q: When does the orientation start if I choose to start my studies online?**

A: There are two days of orientation on the 16th and 17th July. This is done online and consists of enrolment requirements, short lectures and "getting to know you" activities.

**Q: Do we have a late start date for the online course if I miss that start date?**

A: No, we can't accept late starts for online study as the main reason that we normally show some flexibility here is due to visa and travel delays which do not apply to online study.

**Q: What online teaching platforms and methodology do we use?**

A: Our central LMS (Learning management system) is [Blackboard Ultra](#).

For over 10 years, UP Education has been using [Education Perfect](#) to help our students practise their English.

Microsoft Teams is used for interactive lectures and tutorials and Education Perfect is used for workshops and formative testing (software for Microsoft Office is included in your tuition fee).

**Q: Do I need an Apple product to operate online or will everything work on Windows as well?**

A: You can use either Apple or Windows for your online studies. We have tested both and are confident that there will be minimal problems regardless of the equipment or systems that you are operating at home. Microsoft Office has video and sound capabilities, so if you don't have a webcam, sound (microphone) will work fine.

**Q: Do I need to pay the full tuition fee?**

A: Yes, please pay the tuition fee and Overseas Student Health Cover only in order to commence your online study with us. Semester fee example here:

Semester Fee:	\$12,750
Annual Fee:	\$25,500
Total Tuition Fee:	\$25,500

**Q: Are classes compulsory?**

A: Yes, classes are compulsory, as you will be commencing your course online, and will be expected to attend in that same way as you would be if you were physically in class in Australia. We expect 90% attendance.

**Q: What if I am sick and unable to attend class sometimes?**

A: We understand that from time to time students may be unwell and unable to attend class. We do still require 90% attendance, and a doctor's note for any absences over 2 days, although we may be able to make exceptions under special circumstances given the current situation.

**Q: What subjects will my child/students study online?**

A: Students study a total of four units per semester. There are two compulsory units and two elective units in the student's first semester, please find a breakdown below:

**International Foundation Studies Program**

English A (Core)  
English B (Core)  
Calculus (Option)  
Statistics (Option)  
Media Studies (Option)  
Marketing (Option)

**Diploma of Business Studies**

Business and Professional Communication (Core)  
Business Economics (Core)  
Introduction to Business Law (Core)  
Fundamentals of Marketing (Business Option)  
Introduction to Accounting (Accounting Option)

**Diploma of Information Technology**

Computing Fundamentals (Core)  
Statistics (Core)  
Business and Professional Communication (Core)  
Cultural Intelligence and Capability (Core)

**Masters Qualifying Program (Accelerated)**

Business Ethics (Core)  
Business Communication (Core)  
Organisational Security (Core)  
Enterprise IT Management (Core)

**Masters Preparation Program or Masters Qualifying Program (Standard length)**

Academic Skills and Communication (Core)  
Intercultural Skills and Communication (Core)  
Critical Thinking for Postgraduate Studies (Core)  
English for Postgraduate Studies (Core)

**Q: Can I choose my units?**

A: Generally, your units are determined based on your intended degree progression at the university.

**Q: If I fail a unit and have to resit, will this appear on my transcripts?**

A: Charles Darwin International pathways have policies in place that will allow you to apply for a withdrawal from units that you are not progressing well in. There are separate application processes that take place before or after census dates.

**Q: How will I know if my child is progressing well with their studies and attending class?**

A: Student grades and attendance are available on Blackboard and you can discuss this with your child/student. If academic or attendance issues arise, you or your parents (where appropriate) will be contacted directly.

The unit teachers will be your main source of contact but you are welcome to contact Ms Abbie Swapnil, Student Support and Admin Officer, [abbie.swapnil@cdu.edu.au](mailto:abbie.swapnil@cdu.edu.au)

**Q: What kind of training do you teachers have with the online platforms that you are using?**

A: Charles Darwin International Pathway College Staff have been preparing for online delivery for the past few months and are skilled and experienced in this mode of educational delivery.

**Q: Who are the teachers that will do the online teaching?**

A: The same teachers that are teaching the students in Australia will be delivering the online modules, depending on availability of individual teachers.

**Q: What time of the day will I study?**

A: 11am-7pm Australia Central Standard Time (ACST).

Students should still expect 8 hours study per day. This will consist of a combination of streamed classes and independent study. You can find a sample timetable [here](#).

**Q: Will I still have homework?**

A: Yes, you will have assignments as normal just like if you were physically in Australia, these will be submitted through Blackboard.

**Q: What if the online platform doesn't work in my country?**

A: There should be no issue with the platforms but alternative arrangements can be made for students who require files and assignment submission through email. Our student support team can also provide assistance with access to systems.

**Q: Do I need to have a student visa before commencing online learning in my home country?**

A: No, as long as you have received your Confirmation of Enrolment, you can enrol into the program and commence online learning. However, when the border reopens, you need to have your student visa to travel to Australia and continue studying onshore.

Please be aware that due to the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) situation, CDU is temporarily delivering its courses online, until the University deems it is best to revert back to on-campus delivery, in accordance with Australian Government guidelines.

**Q: What if I start my course online and then my visa is rejected?**

A: In the case of commencement online, we require you to have been issued your Confirmation of Enrolment (CoE) - although this means that you need to prepare further in advance for your online studies, it will reduce the risk of a visa rejection.

In order to ensure that you have the best chance of obtaining your visa quickly once you commence, we expect students to submit their visa application within the first week of commencement.

However, even once we have issued the CoE, it is still possible that some students may have their visas refused, in which case, we will apply the following refund guidelines:

A: If the student receives a visa refusal during the first semester of their course, we will refund fees for the second semester.

B: If the student receives a visa refusal during the second semester of their course, there will be no refund for the student, however the student may complete their course online.

**Q: How long will I be studying online?**

A: As soon as we are confident that the borders will re-open, we will work towards welcoming students to Australia. We will teach out the semester that you are studying online, so that all students can join face to face at the beginning of the following semester together.

Note that there is likely to be a delay with visa processing due to the backlog. Our goal is that there will be enough time for students to obtain visas for the following semester's intake. However, we will commit to providing online learning for as long as required while students wait for visas to be processed.

**Q: What if I decide I do not wish to continue with online learning?**

A: All students will be able to commence their learning online. If you experience difficulties with accessing the online course material, you have some different options around deferral, depending on when you decide to do so.

A: If you choose to defer before course commencement, we will transfer your offer, CoE and any fees paid to the next available intake.

B: If you choose to defer after course commencement, you must do so before the census date (which is 14 August). We will transfer your enrolment, CoE and any fees paid to the next available intake.

C: If you choose to defer after commencement and after the census date, you can do so, but you will incur the cost of the tuition fee for the first semester of your course.

Please note that changing to a future intake may mean that your whole study plan is pushed back, you must advise by the census date if you wish to withdraw and defer to a future intake. To do so, you must notify the Student Support Administrator and the Admissions team: [international@cdu.edu.au](mailto:international@cdu.edu.au)

**Q: Should I just defer to the next intake now rather than study online?**

A: We understand that this is new and that you may not have studied online before, but we would recommend that you try and see if it is for you so that you can stay on track for now. For now, this option is the best way to progress to you to the next stage of study in Feb/March 2021. If this changes in any way, we will of course keep you updated.

**Q: How can I be sure that I won't fall behind if I am studying online and the other students are studying in class?**

A: We have no reason to think that you will fall behind, as you will be studying at the same pace as your classmates in Australia. However, we will run additional tutorial classes, provide extra exam preparation and revision and we will have welfare staff available who will be dedicated to ensuring a smooth transition for you once you arrive in Australia.

**Q: I have a scholarship for my course, will this be carried over if I defer?**

A: Scholarships are only offered for each intake, so any scholarship offer will not necessarily apply to a subsequent intake.

**Q: I have a conditional offer at the moment, but need to supply a language test to accept my place. Can you accept any equivalents to IELTS?**

A: We are considering some alternatives to the IELTS test given the current circumstances, and will provide suggestions on alternatives as soon as we can.

**Q: I have a conditional offer at the moment, but need to supply my transcripts from high school, which I can't obtain at the moment. Can I accept without this?**

A: We are considering acceptance of alternatives here as well, and will be in touch as soon as we can confirm what we can accept.

**Q: Who are the key contacts that I can reach out to?**

A: If there is anything that you'd like to discuss, please contact Ms Abbie Swapnil, Student Support and Admin Officer, [abbie.swapnil@cdu.edu.au](mailto:abbie.swapnil@cdu.edu.au)