

Frequently Asked Questions

Charles Darwin University
International Pathway College
Online Study Period



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

The course will start on 1 March 2021.

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

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.

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

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. In order to get ready for your online study, please check which version of Windows you have. You can use this [link](#) to do so.

Are classes compulsory?

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.

What subjects will my child/students study online?

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 Programme

- 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 Programme (Accelerated)

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

Masters Preparation Programme or Masters Qualifying Programme (Standard length)

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

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

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.

What time of the day will I study?

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](#).

If you would like to find out how the day will be structured in your timezone, please have a look at our [Timezone flyer](#).

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

There should be no issue with the platforms, but alternative arrangements can be made for students who require files and assignment submission through email. In order to ensure that you are as prepared as possible, orientation we will arrange 2 individual Student Support calls with you to check that you are ready. The first call will be to check your contact details and equipment. The second call will be to ensure that you have the details that you need to enrol.

If there are any issues, please contact international@cdu.edu.au

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

We strongly recommend securing your visa prior to starting your course, however we understand that in some countries this is not yet possible. It is also not possible if you are aged Under 18 at the beginning of your course. In these exceptional cases, as long as you have received your Confirmation of Enrolment, you can enrol into the program and commence online learning.

Note that the government have made it clear that returning students will be prioritised once borders do start to re-open, this means that you must start your course online if you can, as otherwise you will not be considered a 'returner', and it may take longer for you to be able to travel to Australia.

How long will I be studying online?

As soon as we are confident that the borders will re-open, we will work towards welcoming students to Australia. 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.

Note that the government have made it clear that returning students will be prioritised once borders do start to re-open, this means that you must start your course online if you can, as otherwise you will not be considered a 'returner', and it may take longer for you to be able to travel to Australia.

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

All students will be able to commence their learning online. If you experience difficulties with accessing the online course material, you can apply to defer you to a future intake, assuming that classes will resume face to face in Australia. 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

If you decide to defer your place the next study period AFTER commencement, you will incur the fees for the semester of study that you have started.

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

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.

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 you accept without this?

We are considering acceptance of alternatives here as well, please contact our Admissions team for further information. Admissions team email: international@cdu.edu.au

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

Orientation will be held on Friday 25 February 2021. Before orientation we will arrange 2 individual Student Support calls with you to check that you are ready. The first call will be to check your contact details and equipment. The second call will be to ensure

that you have the details that you need to enrol, and after this we will provide you with the orientation details so that you can join.

What online teaching platforms and methodology do we use?

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).

Do I need to pay the full tuition fee?

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

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

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.

Can I choose my units?

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

Who are the teachers that will do the online teaching?

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

Will I still have homework?

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

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

We strongly recommend that you apply for your visa before you commence your course. Visa biometrics facilities are now open in almost all countries, so you should be able to apply for your visa now. In addition, as borders re-open, we want to ensure that you are ready to travel to Australia, and having your visa will help with this.

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. Visa refusals will be considered an acceptable reason for a refund of course fees, however students must complete the refund request form and we

will process such refunds based on the specific circumstances of each individual case.

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

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 4 December). 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

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

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 you to the next stage of study in Feb/March 2021. If this changes in any way, we will of course keep you updated.

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?

CDU Course	IELTS Academic Module	IELTS Indicator	TOEFL Internet based Test (iBT)	TOEFL Internet Based Test (iBT) Special Home Edition	TOEFL Institutional Testing Program (ITP)	Linguaskill	Duolingo
Foundation programs First Year Diploma in Business First Year Diploma in IT	IELTS 5.5 (no band less than 5.0)	IELTS 5.5 (no band less than 5.0)	Overall score 46	Overall score 46	Overall 460 in Listening, writing and reading plus vericant speaking interview score of 14	B1	Overall score of 85
			Listening 14	Listening 14			
			Reading 14	Reading 14			
			Speaking 14	Speaking 14			
			Writing 21	Writing 21			
Masters Qualifying Program (MQP) Standard	IELTS 5.5 (no band less than 5.5)	IELTS 5.5 (no band less than 5.5)	Overall score 46	Overall score 46	Overall 543 in Listening, Writing and Reading plus vericant interview speaking score of 14	B2	Overall score of 90
			Listening 14	Listening 14			
			Reading 14	Reading 14			
			Speaking 14	Speaking 14			
			Writing 21	Writing 21			
Masters Preparation Program (MPP) Masters Qualifying Program (MQP) Accelerated	IELTS 6.0 (no band less than 5.5)	IELTS 6.0 (no band less than 5.5)	Overall score 60	Overall score 60	Overall 543 in Listening, Writing and Reading plus vericant speaking interview score of 15	B2	Overall score of 95
			Listening 18	Listening 18			
			Reading 18	Reading 18			
			Speaking 18	Speaking 18			
			Writing 21	Writing 21			

The government have made it clear that returning students will be prioritised once borders do start to re-open, this means that you must start your course online if you can, as otherwise you will not be considered a 'returner', and it may take longer for you to be able to travel to Australia even once borders have reopened.

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

The scholarship you receive for November 2020 intake may be able to be carried over if you defer to Semester 1 2021. Please check with the admissions team.

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

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 Vivienne Holt (vivienne.holt@cdu.edu.au)

What are the latest updates from the Department of Home Affairs (DHA)?

The Department of Home Affairs (DHA) in Australia has been regularly updating their [website](#) in relation to COVID-19.

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

If there is anything that you'd like to discuss, please contact Vivienne Holt (vivienne.holt@cdu.edu.au)