A Vision for Excellence in Learning and Teaching at The Australian National University

August 2018
Introduction

In achieving the vision of a contemporary ANU sitting among the great universities of the world, defined by a culture of excellence (ANU Strategic Plan 2017 – 2021), the University is committed to high quality learning and teaching.

This commitment acknowledges that students are the centre of learning and teaching at ANU. A partnership between students, academics, professional staff and the University forms the foundation for excellence in learning and teaching.

The Vision for Excellence in Learning and Teaching requires commitment and leadership across the University and at all levels. The University values, enables, rewards and celebrates excellence in learning and teaching.

Four key interdependent pillars – engaged students, inspirational academics, an enriching environment, a connected community – provide a frame of reference for aligning focus and effort to continuously improve the outcomes of learning and teaching at ANU.

Vision Statement

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Our graduates will have a positive influence on the future. They are passionate, creative and capable of solving critical problems not yet imagined. They create and apply knowledge to improve the lives of people, the nation and the world.

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The Four Pillars of Learning and Teaching at ANU

Pillar 1: Engaged Students

Our students will

- have exceptional potential with the talent and determination to succeed
- seek depth, breadth, and challenge in their learning
- actively engage in the University community

Our students will constructively engage with their learning, and will challenge themselves and the University to achieve more.

They will seek to understand and to expand their world with the depth and breadth of their knowledge. They will question norms and strive to create new knowledge.

Pillar 2: Inspirational Academics

Our academics will

- be distinguished and scholarly in their teaching and research
- proactively engage students with research-inspired education
- challenge and support their students

The approach to learning and teaching at ANU provides students with a unique research-inspired education that instills curiosity and develops a mindset that informs their professional, personal and civic lives.

Our staff have a collaborative learning ethos that focuses on principles of education design, that enriches the learner experience, engages the student cohort and teaches for contemporary learning.

Pillar 3: An Enriching Environment

Our learning environments will

- be accessible, collaborative, and enrich the student experience
- foster distinctive approaches to education grounded in pedagogy and evidence
- exploit the power of physical and digital infrastructure to enhance learning and teaching

Educational excellence at ANU means leadership in developing distinctive approaches to education to improve student outcomes.

Expertise, resources, technology and infrastructure enable quality learning and teaching.

Pillar 4: A Connected Community

Our Learning and Teaching Community will

- ensure cohesive learning and teaching partnerships within and beyond the University
- celebrate diversity, be inclusive, and foster well-being
- remain connected to alumni as life-long members of ANU

ANU is committed to equity and diversity as fundamental values. Our approach is enabled by us being a single academic community with a shared set of values founded on personal integrity, mutual respect and a celebration of diversity. Ensuring well-being is the foundation on which we create a high-achieving and inspired community.
The University's educational model asserts the value of connection: connection to the campus and local community while undertaking study, connection through a quality education and collaborative learning, and through lifelong engagement with learning and with ANU.

High quality learning and teaching is underpinned by the ANU values

- We bring a distinctive excellence to our work and have the confidence to pursue original ideas.
- We are inclusive, open and respectful, reflecting the diversity of our nation.
- We are committed to integrity and ethical behaviour.
- We value, enable, reward and celebrate collegiality.
- We embrace informed risk-taking in pursuit of our objectives.
- We are committed to better outcomes for our community, the environment, our nation and the world.
- We are committed to the service of our nation, through original thinking and through courage in advancing our ideas.

CONTACT US

Pro Vice-Chancellor (Education)

Office of the Vice Chancellor

Chancellor Building, 10 East Road |
The Australian National University
Canberra ACT 2601 Australia

T 02 6125 4873
E pvc.education@anu.edu.au

CRICOS provider 00120C