

ATTACHMENT A

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE ACADEMIC CALENDAR FOR 2021

1.0 OVERVIEW

The proposal for changes to the Academic Calendar for 2021 consists of three documents, contained within the following attachments, all of which are available online at:

<http://registrar.curtin.edu.au/consultations/index.cfm>

- A Proposed Changes to the Academic Calendar for 2021 (*this document*)
- B High level visual summary of proposed changes
- C Proposed Academic Calendar (showing 2019-2022)

Staff and students are encouraged to circulate these documents widely and respond by email to calendar@curtin.edu.au with any feedback that they have on this proposal no later than the close of business on 12th September 2018.

2.0 BACKGROUND

Curtin is an innovative, global university, with overseas campuses in Malaysia, Singapore, Dubai and Mauritius. Each of these campus locations represents a vibrant hub for students, staff, industry, and the broader community.

The proposed calendar changes outlined in this paper are designed to:

- deliver better academic calendar alignment across Curtin's campuses to create new opportunities (detailed below) and to reduce the pressures associated with the misalignment of existing study periods;
- provide improved opportunities for global student and staff mobility through exchange programs and cross-campus learning;
- through improved calendar alignment, provide opportunities for cross-campus unit co-ordination and distributed learning, thereby facilitating more opportunities for students to learn alongside students at other campuses;
- provide enhanced opportunities for students to engage in paid work, placements, or volunteer work for students as well as more flexible study options for students (where appropriately configured within the course and subject to availability), including the potential to:
 - complete a degree in a shorter timeframe;
 - complete in the same timeframe but with a reduced load in each period; or
 - catch up on missed or failed units.
- attract more international and regional students to Curtin by providing more flexible study options in those courses that are able to offer such flexibility; and
- facilitate greater year-round use of our facilities, which will, in turn, sustain and enrich the Curtin community.

3.0 CONSULTATION

An Academic Calendar engagement and communications plan was developed for the first phase of consultation. During June, July and August 2018, an extensive program of faculty-wide and student town hall meetings was convened to discuss draft proposals and to facilitate stakeholder feedback. Comprehensive feedback received during consultation led to a number of refinements to the proposed model initially presented by the University. In response to feedback, the following changes to the initial proposal were made.

1. Reduction in size of the proposed optional Summer School from 14 weeks overall (including revision and examination weeks) to 10 weeks overall;
2. Reversion to a five week inter-semester break between the two main study periods (defined as Semesters 1 and 2);
3. Maintenance of a revision week immediately prior to examinations in the main study periods and the 10 week optional Summer School;
4. Reinstatement of a two week examination period in the main study periods and the trimesters; and
5. Retention of two tuition free weeks in Semester 1.

4.0 CHANGES PROPOSED FOR 2021

In the light of the consultation and feedback received to date, the Academic Calendar proposals have been refined (refer to Attachments B and C for the updated proposals). In summary, the main changes to the current (i.e. 2018) calendar are as follows. If approved by Academic Board, these changes are proposed to become effective from 2021 onwards.

SEMESTERS

1. Semester 1 starts and finishes one week earlier.
2. Semester 2 starts one week earlier, and with the reduction of one tuition-free week the semester finishes two weeks earlier.
3. An increase in the current Summer School from 6 weeks to 10 weeks (this extends teaching time from 5 to 8 weeks, and also introduces an additional week for revision prior to the examination week). The Summer School will be optional.

TRIMESTERS

4. Existing Trimesters are now consolidated into an equally spaced single Trimester series that runs within a calendar year, without needing to span the Dec-Jan recess. This replaces the current Trimesters (including the 'A' and 'B' variants).

INTENSIVE STUDY PERIODS

5. Timings for the 6 week Intensive study periods have been revised to retain alignment with other study periods as much as possible.
6. A 4 week Intensive study period replaces the 6 week period at the end of the year.

OUA / OTHER CALENDARS

7. There are **no changes** proposed to OUA or other existing calendars.

Please refer to Attachment B for a high-level visual summary of how the Academic Calendar will operate from 2021 onwards if this proposal is approved by Academic Board. Attachment C provides fine-grained detail of the Academic Calendars for the years 2019-2022.

Keen readers will note that the *second* part of the Summer School is included in Attachment B in January 2021. This has been included to provide a complete high-level picture of the new Calendar for reference. However, it should be noted that this period will be offered first towards the end of 2021 (as shown in Attachment C).

5.0 OPEN CONSULTATION

A university-wide open consultation period has been established and this is active between 30th August and the close of business (COB) on the 12th September.

Please widely circulate this document (Attachment A), together with Attachments B and C and return comments to calendar@curtin.edu.au no later than COB on 12th Sep 2018.

These documents are available from <http://registrar.curtin.edu.au/consultations/index.cfm>

6.0 TRAJECTORY OF THIS PROPOSAL

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| Thu 30 Aug | University-wide consultation period opens for 10 working days. Staff and students are encouraged to respond to this proposal (i.e. Attachments A-C) |
| Wed 12 Sep | Last day for responses to be submitted to calendar@curtin.edu.au |
| Wed 19 Sep | The proposal (incorporating any amendments as appropriate) will be considered by the Academic Services Committee (ASC). Feedback from the university-wide consultation will be collated and included for ASC members. |
| Fri 28 Sep | Upon receiving a recommendation from ASC, Academic Board will consider the proposal and any subsequent amendments. (Academic Board is the approval authority for changes to the Academic Calendar.) If the proposal is approved, a Calendar Implementation Group will be formed to progress matters and work towards the agreed inception date. It is anticipated that a post implementation review of the new Academic Calendar will be completed within three years of the change. |

7.0 QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Please direct any questions or comments about the proposal to calendar@curtin.edu.au

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