

Dear Deans and Associate Deans for the College of Public Health, Medical and Veterinary Sciences, Arts, Society & Education and Science & Engineering, Chancellor Twedell, Vice Chancellor Harding Professor Naylor and Miss Laing.

Recently the JCU Student Association has been informed that the following courses listed below and students studying First Year subjects or selected Level 5 CP subjects in 2022, will be greatly impacted through the introduction of trimesters with some courses forcing students to study in the trimester and semester system simultaneously, resulting in a student's not being able to experience study vacation from the start of the Academic Year, until the middle of December.

The JCU Student Association is astounded with not only the lack of communication to continuing students before this information has been released on the JCU Website, but also heavily concerned with the expansion of forcing students to study trimester and semester systems simultaneously due to the likelihood to increasing student burnouts and impact their safety and wellbeing.

This year, the JCU Student Association has heard from worried and stressed students studying a double degree including Business, explaining how studying trimester and semester systems have affected their mental health, but also the feeling of isolation from other students as they must study during the typical study vacation break, miss out on the JCU Orientation programs and live in segregation to residential, society and JCU events.

Not only is the JCU Student Association heavily concerned for student wellbeing, additional academic requirements are also a concern for degrees such as the Bachelor of Engineering (Honours), as students must complete 12 weeks (60 days) of vacation practice experience prior to graduation. Having received feedback from the JCU Engineering clubs, students have expressed their concern as this requirement is a major positive reason for why students chose to study at JCU.

Whereas, at UQ only requires students to complete 450 hours of placement, therefore with the anticipated introduction of trimesters and the likelihood for students to be impacted by studying Trimester and Semesters simultaneously, students are rightfully worried how these proposed changes will impact their capability to source placements with industry companies preferring students to undertake placement in 1-2 blocks, not further spaced and shorter blocks.

Therefore, the JCU Student Association demands for the sake of the wellbeing of future and continuing JCU students, for the University to reverse these decisions on expanding this trimester model.

While there are Business-only students this year who have been less impacted, the matter of the fact is when Double Degree students are being advised off the record to pick one major to study for a year to avoid burning out, we all know this system is not in student's best interests.

How can James Cook University seek to introduce these ill-considered changes given the disastrous impacts this will have on student's livelihoods and mental health?

Courses planned to be delivered in Trimester and Semester simultaneously:

- Diploma in Higher Education Major in Information Technology
- Bachelor of Advanced Science
- Bachelor of Arts - Bachelor of Business
- Bachelor of Arts - Bachelor of Science
- Bachelor of Business and Environmental Science



- Bachelor of Business - Bachelor of Psychological Science
- Bachelor of Business - Bachelor of Laws
- Bachelor of Education (Secondary) (*Accounting, Business and Economics Teaching Areas Only*)
- Bachelor of Education (Primary)
- Bachelor of Education (Secondary)
- Bachelor of Engineering (Honours)
- Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) - Bachelor of Information Technology
- Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) - Bachelor of Science
- Diploma of Higher Education (*Business Studies & General Studies if business subjects are selected*)
- *Bachelor of Environmental Practice (Corporate Environmental Management only)*
- *Bachelor of Science*
- *Bachelor of Technology and Innovation*

Regards,

Emily Mulroy (she/hers) | President
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JCUSA acknowledges the Bindal and Wulgurukaba peoples as the Traditional Owners of the land on which we work and live, and recognise their continuing connection to land, water and community. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.



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