

## Questions & Answers

*Why was this change necessary?*

*University dates and school holidays are published well in advance, why are these changes being made now? Why didn't UOW get the dates right in the first place?*

The University sets its session dates 10 years in advance and in accordance with advice from Universities Australia. NSW School holidays are published usually two years in advance. Usually the University and NSW school holidays align, however this year there was an unexpected mismatch. Staff have been working to plan all possible alternatives to having to move the date as well as consulting with the main affected areas. A risk assessment has been conducted in consultation with key stakeholders. Only once this piece of work including all the risks and mitigation strategies had been mapped out, could approval be sought to move the date.

*What will this mean for my subject/course program in Spring Session?*

The official University recess week will move, this does not preclude you from continuing to run pre-confirmed activities (such as field trips) associated with subjects in the week that will now be the recess week and putting local arrangements for a reading week or other arrangements commencing 24th September.

*Is this just for the Main Wollongong Campus, or will it affect regional campuses too?*

The session dates change will affect all UOW campuses.

*What impact will this have on session dates for subjects/courses that run on trimesters?*

These changes will have no impact on courses taught on a trimester schedule.

*Will dates of exams and assignments now change to accommodate the changed mid-session break?*

These changes are being made with enough notice to allow the change to be accommodated in course or subject planning, which includes considering dates for assignments and exams.

*From staff: I have already booked annual leave during the recess based on the dates previously published. What should I do now?*

Consult with your Head of School regarding local arrangements for teaching that week.

*From students: I have already booked annual leave during the recess based on the dates previously published. What should I do now?*

Students faced with this situation should submit supporting documentation that provides evidence they have booked their leave prior to the release of the new 2018 session dates.

*I have committed to do research activities/attend a conference off campus during this period because it was going to be the recess. What do I do about my teaching commitments and my students now?*

Consult with your Head of School regarding local arrangements for teaching that week.

***What consultation happened before the University took and announced this decision?***

The Student Services Division consulted with all Units and Divisions across the University as well as each of the five academic faculties and regional campus leaders.