

Learning and Teaching Matters
1 July 2026

Overview from Interim Director, CEI
Professor Amanda Telford

Dear colleagues,

As Semester 1 draws to a close, I would like to thank colleagues across academic and professional teams for the care and commitment you have shown in supporting students. This period brings together teaching, examinations, marking, results release and the coordination and support that sit alongside them. I appreciate the work involved in bringing one semester to a close while already preparing for the next.

I am also pleased to share several upcoming opportunities for colleagues to connect and explore evidence-based and good practice in learning and teaching:

- **Semester 2 2026 Professional Learning Series: Monday 27 – Thursday 30 July, online**
A HELTA-led, online O-Week program focused on practical, peer-led learning to support teaching preparation. Staff are encouraged to keep these dates free, with registration details to be shared shortly.
- **FEA Assessment Showcase: Wednesday 30 September, 1–4 pm, online**
The Faculty of Education and Arts, in collaboration with CEI, will showcase good practice and innovative approaches to assessment redesign, including secure and open assessment across different learning modes. All academic and professional staff are welcome to attend. Please [download the calendar file](#) to add the event to your Outlook calendar.
- **2026 Showcase of Teaching and Learning: Thursday 3 December**
Held in partnership with Student Experience and Enhancement, this year's Showcase will explore the theme *Students as Partners* and collaborative approaches to enhancing the student learning experience. Further details will be shared shortly.

I hope you are able to take some time to recharge during the mid-year break. As attention turns to Semester 2, please contact CEI@acu.edu.au if you have any questions or need support with your learning and teaching preparations.

Results Withheld (RW) grades for Academic Integrity cases

In preparation for Results Release next week, the Academic Integrity Team (AIT) will work with the Student Results Team to apply Results Withheld (RW) grades where required until **COB Thursday 2 July**.

An RW grade will be applied to a student's unit at the end of the study period if:

- Their academic integrity case is still under investigation, and no outcome has been reached.
- The student has not notified the AIT that they have completed the compulsory education modules assigned as part of a misconduct breach.

Note: Students with a finding of Poor Academic Practice (PAP) do not have a hold placed on their grade. National Unit Leaders (NULs) must finalise and release grades for any student for whom they have received a PAP letter.

Investigations can be prioritised where:

- a student has an EIP
- a student is experiencing significant stress
- a student is course-completing
- the unit is a prerequisite for Semester 2 units or placement.

RW grades will only be requested by the AIT for cases that are lodged in SAMMS by **COB Thursday 2 July**.

NULs are required to request an RW for cases submitted **after COB 2 July** by emailing stresults@acu.edu.au cc. academic.integrity@acu.edu.au.

Supporting students with Cost-Of-Living Assistance

As Semester 2 begins, for some students financial stress remains a significant barrier to engagement and academic success. When students are worried about groceries, rent, or fuel, concentration in the classroom suffers.

A reminder that the Cost-of-Living Assistance program introduced earlier this year is still running and accepting referrals - and a timely referral from a staff member can make a real difference.

If a student mentions they're struggling with everyday expenses, refer them through the [Cost-of-Living assistance form on UniHub](#). Within two business days, the Student Experience team issues a \$50 e-gift card redeemable at Woolworths, BIG W, or EG Ampol fuel stations. No follow-up is needed from you. Via the form you can also connect a student directly with the Student Experience Team, who can reach out proactively and link them with broader support where needed.

Students can be referred more than once, and the program continues while funds remain available.

Sometimes the most effective teaching begins with simply listening and knowing how to connect students with the full range of supports ACU offers.

Questions? Contact StudentExperience@acu.edu.au

Canvas Foundation Template and drop-in sessions

As part of the *Your Voice Matters* initiative, ACU has introduced a Canvas Foundation Template to improve consistency and make it easier for students to navigate their units.

Are you a Unit Leader in Semester 2?

The Canvas Foundation Template has been automatically applied to your scheduled units. By **Friday, 17 July** you will need to:

- Follow the [support guide](#) to import the 2025 content into your 2026 Canvas shell
- Use the **select specific content** feature to only transfer required content
- Review the [Readiness Checklist](#) to ensure that your unit is set up properly

Throughout July, CEI will offer daily drop-in sessions commencing on Wednesday, **1 July** and concluding on Thursday, **30 July**. All sessions are delivered via Teams, join at the meeting time using the links below.

Day	Drop-in session title	Link
Every Monday 1pm - 2pm	Canvas Foundation template support	Join here
Every Tuesday 1pm - 2pm	Canvas Foundation template support	Join here
Every Wednesday 11am - 12pm	General Canvas Support	Join here

	• setting up quizzes • organising assignments • getting more out of Canvas • your questions	
Every Thursday 1pm - 2pm	Canvas Foundation template support	Join here
Every Friday 1pm – 2pm	Canvas Foundation template support	Join here

If you encounter any issues, please log a [Service Central request](#) for assistance.

New feature in the Assignment Extension Tool

A new feature in the Assignment Extension Tool allows staff to exclude specific assessment types from short-term automatic extension eligibility by adding a supported exclusion keyword to the Canvas assessment name.

Once the keyword is added, the tool will automatically exclude the assessment from eligibility for a short-term automatic extension.

This feature is intended only for assessment types that are **not eligible** under section 9.21(i) of the [Assessment Procedures](#). It must not be used to remove extension eligibility from assessments that are otherwise eligible.

The update supports assessment types such as:

- central exams
- in-class tests
- group assessments
- Cadmus exams
- Graded discussion

Please refer to the [Knowledge Base article](#) for the full list of supported keywords and step-by-step instructions.

Feedback comments for Canvas marking

The Academic Skills Unit has developed standardised feedback comments to support staff marking in Canvas SpeedGrader.

The comments cover 14 common areas of student writing, including logic and argumentation, use of evidence, organisation, paragraph writing and clarity of expression. Each category includes feedback comments, short explanations and links to relevant [Academic Skills online](#) resources in Canvas to help students build specific academic writing skills.

Markers can select and customise comments as needed, using them alongside existing feedback to provide clear and consistent guidance. The comments are also pre-loaded into the Annotate PRO web browser plugin.

Request access to the [Academic Skills standardised feedback comments for marking with Canvas SpeedGrader](#), then download the Word or Excel file for easy copying and pasting into Canvas SpeedGrader.

For enquiries or feedback, contact academicskills@acu.edu.au.

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