Trimesters at Griffith
Information for International Students commencing from 2017
When will trimesters commence?
Trimesters will commence in 2017 with Trimester 1 commencing in February, Trimester 2 in July and Trimester 3 in October.

Why is Griffith changing to a trimester system?
The new model will offer our students greater flexibility in their studies, a greater choice of commencement dates for some degree programs and, for some students, may allow faster program completion.

How will trimesters affect my visa requirements?
To ensure you continue to meet your visa requirements once trimesters commence, please refer to the following guidelines:

- If you start your degree in Trimester 1, Trimester 1 and 2 will be compulsory and you must undertake a full time study load of 40 credit points*. Study in Trimester 3 will be optional for most programs^.
- If you start your degree in Trimester 2, you must undertake a full time study load in both Trimester 2 and Trimester 1 the following year.
- If you start your degree in Trimester 3, you must undertake a full time study load in Trimester 3* and also the following Trimesters 1 and 2. Subsequent Trimester 3 study will be optional.

Can I study less than 40 credit points per trimester?
You are required to complete a minimum of 40 credit points in both Trimester 1 and Trimester 2. There are no minimum requirements for Trimester 3 unless you commence study in Trimester 3, in which case the minimum load is 40 credit points^.

Will all programs be offered in Trimester 3?
No, not all programs will commence or offer courses in Trimester 3. Please refer to the Degree and Career Finder on the Griffith University website for program-specific trimester study options. (degrees.griffith.edu.au)

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^ Some programs have compulsory Trimester 3 subjects. Refer to the Degree and Career Finder web page for details of your program’s enrolment requirements. (degrees.griffith.edu.au)

* Some programs have a lower minimum study load requirement for the commencing trimester. Refer to the Degree and Career Finder web page for details of your program’s enrolment requirements. (degrees.griffith.edu.au)

For inbound Study Abroad or Exchange students doing two or more trimesters, Trimester 3 is not compulsory. All inbound Study Abroad and Exchange students need to complete a minimum of 30 credit points per trimester.

† The timing of orientation activities for Trimester 2 and Trimester 3 is yet to be confirmed.
If I start studying in Trimester 3, do I have to study in the following Trimester 1 and Trimester 2 consecutively?

Yes. Trimester 1 and Trimester 2 are compulsory trimesters for full degree international students* to comply with student visa requirements. Study Abroad and Exchange students* can commence in any trimester, subject to availability of suitable courses, and can enrol in up to three trimesters in a 12 month period.

If I complete Trimester 3 in my first year, will it still be optional in subsequent years?

Unless you are commencing studies in Trimester 3 or your program has compulsory courses in Trimester 3, all Trimester 3 study is optional.

If I commence study in Trimester 3, will my deposit cover Trimester 3 and Trimester 1?

Your deposit will only cover the trimester in which you commence study. Therefore, if you pay a full tuition deposit to commence in Trimester 3, it will only cover Trimester 3.

Will trimesters affect the length of student vacation periods?

Yes. The break between Trimesters 1 and 2 has been reduced from three weeks to two weeks. If you elect to study in Trimester 3, you will not have a long summer break. Refer to the academic calendar for a complete list of vacation dates. (www.griffith.edu.au/calendars-events/academic-calendar)

If semesters had 13 teaching weeks and trimesters only have 12, does this mean I will miss out on a week of tuition?

No. All programs from 2017 onwards have been redeveloped to ensure all course content fits into the new 12 teaching week trimester structure.

What happens if I complete my program early?

If you complete your program one trimester (or earlier) before the end date of your Confirmation of Enrolment (CoE), the remainder of your CoE will be cancelled and the Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP) will be notified of your early completion. You will then need to make arrangements to return home, or contact DIBP to discuss your visa options. You will not be allowed to remain in Australia on your student visa without studying once you have completed your program.

Will Griffith English Language Institute (GELI) offer a Direct Entry Pathway (DEP) for students commencing a degree in Trimester 3?

Yes, GELI will offer DEP Preparation followed by DEP for students who have a Letter of Offer to commence a degree in Trimester 3. For course dates, refer to the GELI website. (www.griffith.edu.au/geli)

Will Griffith English Language Institute (GELI) offer EnglishHELP in Trimester 3?

Yes. Free EnglishHELP support will be offered in all three trimesters.

Can I enrol in an English Language Enhancement Course (ELEC) in Trimester 3?

Yes. You must complete an ELEC in your first trimester unless you have been given an exemption.

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* Full degree international student: An international student completing a full degree award program with Griffith University.
* Study Abroad or Exchange student: An international student completing one, two or three trimesters of study with Griffith on a non-award basis.