



CDU 101: The basics of your student life at CDU, Darwin, and the Northern Territory

Presented by Josh Paatan | International Student Support Officer

Acknowledgement of Country



Charles Darwin University acknowledges the First Nations owners of the lands on which we live, learn, work, and play.

We recognise that these lands have always been places of creating, learning, mentoring, and living. All these things represent the deep connection that First Nations people have to their Country.

We pay respect to their Elders, lores, customs and creation spirits.

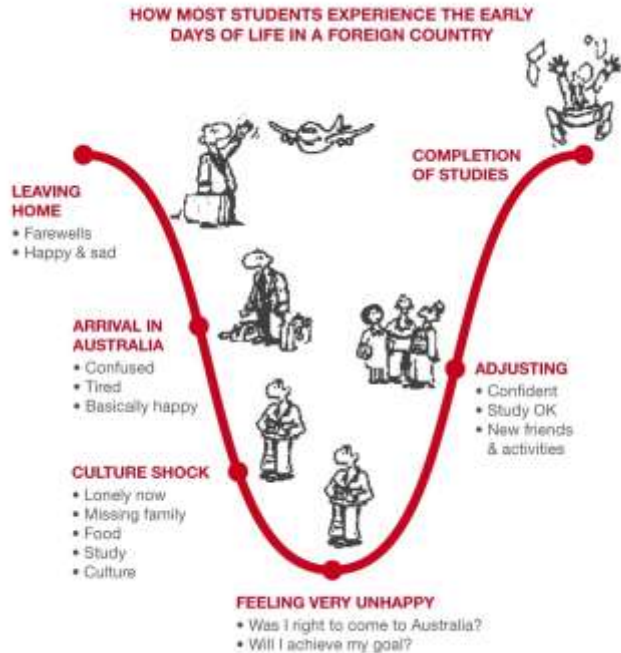
Session overview – What are we doing today?



1. The who, what, where, why, and how of Student Life at CDU
2. An introduction to life in the Territory.
3. What to look forward to this semester!

Summary: Know where to go for help early and if you don't know, ask!

Culture shock and adjustment



- You may already be experiencing some of the ‘culture shock’ and homesickness now.
- The curve may not look as simple as what is shown; there may be many peaks and troughs in your journey.
- Ask for help when you need it and ask **early**.
- Get through this journey with others – make an effort to connect with those around you.

About Darwin

Data: Australian Bureau of Statistics

Population:
150 000 people

Smallest
Capital city

~250 000

in the Northern
Territory

~27 million

in Australia

2

seasons

Dry (May-Oct)



Wet (Nov-Apr)



1 in 3

born overseas



1 in 2

at least one parent
born overseas



1 in 3

are First Nations



About Sydney

Data: Australian Bureau of Statistics

**Sydney – approx.
5.25 million**

2nd Largest
Capital city by
population

~8 million
in New South Wales

~27 million
in Australia



**Gadigal people
Eora Nation**
First Nation of Sydney



1 in 3
born overseas



1 in 2
both parents born
overseas



Before you begin



1. Activate your student account

Your username and password will help unlock many digital services at CDU – even log you in to the eduroam wi-fi network!

2. Enrol in your units

Make sure you have your Unique Student Identifier ready. Check if you have one or register here.

3. Get your student card

4. Get ready for Orientation

Orientation continues beyond today! Check the events calendar on Student Portal or on the CDU Website for more information.

5. Explore the Start Well Guide

6. Connect with your CDU Community

Visit our Welcome Centres, chat to our Student Groups, and read about what goes on at CDU.

Who can I ask?



Student
Central

- **Ask CDU**
Available at any time
- **Student Central**
Available on-campus, by phone, or by email during business hours. For all questions.
- **Your Faculty staff**
For any specific questions about your course or units.

Words we use at CDU

There are words that we use at CDU which might be a bit confusing.

| | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| Unit A single subject you take as part of your course. | Tutorial A separate class which may review content delivered in your lecture or explore relevant examples for assessment. | Due date The last day where you can submit assessment or the last day you can pay invoices before receiving late fees or other penalties. | Census date The last day where you can withdraw from a unit without financial penalty. |
| Course What you are aiming complete and graduate with a degree from. | Webinar A class which may deliver content through an online medium. | Prac Short for 'practical', a class where you may undertake experiments or conduct testing. | Intensive A very short period of time where all unit content and assessment is delivered and conducted. |
| Elective An optional subject you take to study a special interest area in your degree. | Learnline The platform where all unit content, including assessment submissions and lectures, reside. | Placement A portion of your degree set aside for practical experience outside of the university in your chosen field. | Student Central The "one stop shop" where all your general enquiries can be answered. |

Where are my classes located on campus?



Rooms and locations are labelled as:

1. Precinct colour
2. Building number
3. Floor number
4. Room number

Example: Sensory Room is Blue 5.1.42

Other campuses follow similar format.

CDU is a smoke and vape-free University



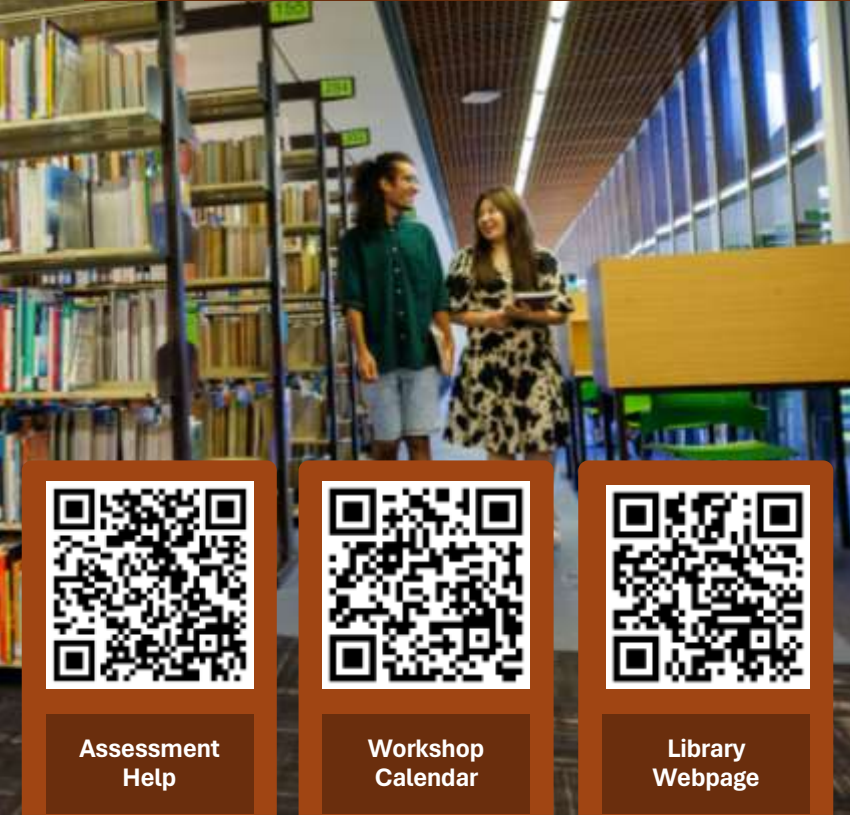
Smoking and vaping (including the use of e-cigarettes) is prohibited at CDU campuses, centres, and on-campus accommodation.



Policy

For more information on exclusion zones and prohibited areas, please see the [Smoke and Vape-free University Policy](#).

We have a library?



Assessment
Help



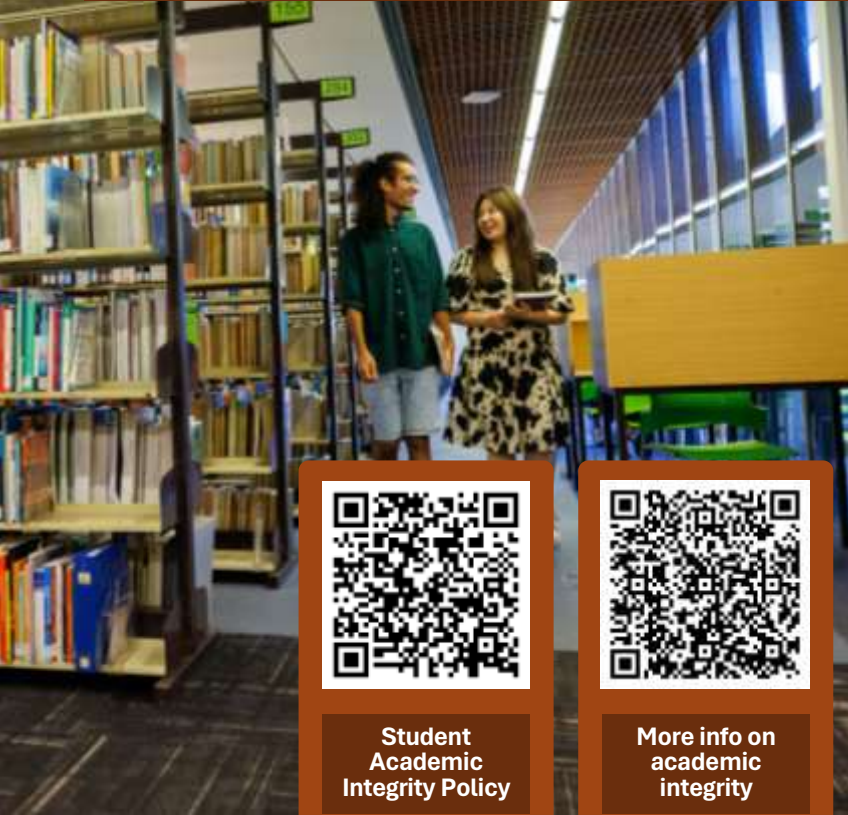
Workshop
Calendar



Library
Webpage

- Red 8, Casuarina Campus
- **Opening hours (in semester)**
 - 8.30am – 8pm Mondays to Fridays
 - 12:30pm – 5pm Weekends and Public Holidays
 - ID Card access outside opening hours (Level 1) until 1am each day
 - Find the library at your campus:
cdu.edu.au/library
- **Get help with:**
 - Understanding your assessments
 - Strengthening your study skills
 - Finding the right resources for your assessments
 - Referencing your assessments

Academic Conduct



Student
Academic
Integrity Policy



More info on
academic
integrity

CDU expects all students to act honestly and responsibly when completing all assessments.

- **What does this mean?** Make sure that you access any resources through the correct channels.

You will need to complete the Academic Integrity Module on Learnline

- Grades will be withheld until you complete this Module

Penalties will apply to students who are found to engage in academic misconduct, such as:

- Cheating, including engaging another person or third-party service to write or submit assessments on your behalf.
- Plagiarising other people's work without appropriate referencing

Where can I stay?

CDU's **International House Darwin** manages **on-campus accommodation** at Casuarina, Katherine, and Alice Springs campuses.

- More info: ihd.cdu.edu.au

Off-campus options include:

- Student accommodation providers (e.g. Unilodge, Scape, Iglu, etc.)
- Living with housemates
- Homestay
- Rental accommodation (via **CDU StudyStays** or rental agency websites)
- Need assistance? Check out cdu.edu.au/accommodation-services



CDU
StudyStays



More Info

Any tips on being a good neighbour?



Neighbourhood
Watch NSW



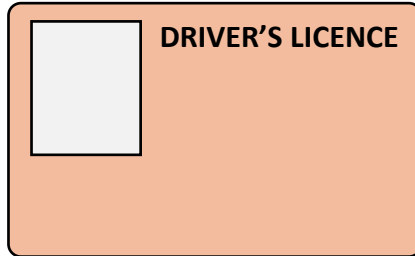
Neighbourhood
Watch NT



Victims of
Crime NT

- **Be considerate.** Get to know your neighbours and the area around you.
- **Be mindful of excessive noise,** especially if you live in a townhouse or apartment block.
- **Dispose of rubbish thoughtfully** and check to see when Bin Day occurs in your area (if you live in a house or townhouse)
- **Be aware.** Lock doors and secure windows even if you are at home.

Getting around



Planning on driving or doing a road trip in the future?

- Make sure your driver's licence is valid & is in English or get a certified translation.

Alternative active transport options for getting around are available in Australia.

- Make sure you know how to use these safely and responsibly. Wear a helmet!



Driving in NSW



Driving in the
NT

Pedestrian awareness

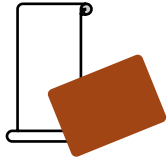


Check for **traffic coming from both directions** when crossing a road.

When crossing a busy road, **use designated road crossings or pedestrian overpasses.**

Keep left on the sidewalk where possible.

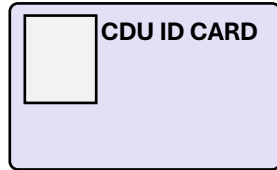
Public transport options (Darwin)



To travel:

Either a paper ticket,
or:

A Tap & Ride card



Students pay 1/3

of the adult fare.

**Make sure you carry
your Student ID with
you!**



**Scan the QR code to learn
more about public transport in
Darwin.**



**Security Cameras and Transit Officers operate on buses and bus interchanges.
To report an incident on a bus, or at a bus stop/shelter/interchange, contact
a Transit Officer on 0457 507 558.**

Public transport options (Sydney)



2 ways to pay

Opal card or Contactless
Credit/Debit Card.

Touch on **and** off



Fares

Distance-based
pricing, with a 30%
off-peak discount

Weekly \$50 cap



Scan the QR code to learn
more about public transport in
Sydney.



Security Cameras operate on all transport modes. If you feel unsafe, phone a friend or speak to transport staff. **For more information, visit transportnsw.info**

Banks and Money



How do I open a bank account?

- Make sure you have valid identification (ie. your passport) and your Australian contact information (phone number and address) as well.

Why do I need one?

- Important for rental bond, salary deposits, and more.

How can I pay for things?

- Use cash or your bank card for regular expenses
- For bills or invoices, check the invoice for different ways you can pay (BPAY or Direct Debit)
- EFTPOS (bank card) only for payments at Student Central

Fee Payments



Local students:

- If on FEE-HELP/CSP, check your Commonwealth Assistance Notice that will be sent to you after Census Date for any discrepancies.
- Not on FEE-HELP/CSP? Pay in full by Census Date.

International students:

- Fees must be fully paid by the first day of classes in every enrolled semester.
- Payment methods include Visa/Mastercard/Amex cards, BPAY, or Flywire, Convera, or PayPal.
- Complete transaction via [CDU WebPay](#)

Don't forget to pay your SSAF!

Scam Alert



Scamwatch
Webpage



Staying safe
online



Scamwatch
Resources

General scam awareness:

- Suspicious link? Don't click!
- Don't give money or personal information to anyone if you are unsure
- If someone asks you to buy gift cards in bulk, it's likely to be a scam
- Review your bank statements and transactions carefully

I need a job!



Careers
Centre



Get your TFN

Looking for work?

- Check the [CDU Careers Centre](#), [Career One](#), [SEEK](#), or [Indeed](#) for listings.
- If you would like somebody to review your CV/resume, or join employment upskilling workshops and programs, click the **Careers Centre tile** on Student Portal or on [Facebook](#)

Apply for a Tax File Number (TFN)

- You can provide it to your employer to ensure they deduct the correct amount of tax from your pay
- Lodge your tax return between July and October each year (or earlier if you leave the country)

I need a job!



Info about
working hours



Fair Work
Ombudsman

**I'm an international student on a student visa.
How many hours can I work in semester?**

- You have a work restriction of 48 hours per fortnight in each enrolled semester
- Further guidance can be found on the [DHA/Immigration website](#)

**What if I'm not being paid fairly, treated fairly,
or have a dispute with my employer?**

- Contact the Fair Work Ombudsman
fairwork.gov.au OR 1300 724 200

Are there student groups?



We have over 25 student groups covering cultural, faith-based, industry and special interest areas (learn magic or going on a hike, anyone?)

Looking to start a group? Chat with our [Student Leadership Officer](#) to know more.

Head to the [Student Groups page on the CDU Website](#) or check out the [CDU Student Life Facebook Page](#) for more info.

CDU Students' Council acts as the voice for all CDU Students. Check out their [page on the CDU website](#) to know more.

What are things I can do outside of uni?



Watch a movie
for \$10



Visit the various year-round
and Dry Season markets
throughout Darwin



Late night shopping
on Fridays



Explore
Darwin's history



Go see an
exhibition,
production, or gig



Become a player for
a social sports team



StudyNT
Website



CDU Student
Life Facebook



NT Evidence of
Age Card

- There are events year-round, but especially in the Dry season (May – Oct). Check out the [Lifestyle page on StudyNT's website](#) to know more.
- For purchasing alcohol and for entry into pubs and nightclubs around Australia, you must show valid ID to prove you are over the age of 18.
 - Your Student ID card will not be accepted, and we don't advise you carry your passport with you.
 - If you will not be applying for a [Northern Territory Driver Licence](#), you should apply for an [Evidence of Age Card](#).

Student Support



Counselling

- Available to all students in-person, phone, or video call

I want to speak to someone about how I'm feeling and I need to do so urgently

- Contact the CDU Wellbeing Support Line
Phone 1300 933 393 or SMS 0488 884 144
- This is available to all students 24/7

Access & Inclusion

- Helps those with a disability and/or health condition to ensure that reasonable adjustments are made to allow equal access and participation in university life.

Student Support

CDU
Counselling

Supporting students to
be resilient and thrive
Do you want to grow
or maintain your
wellbeing?

Are personal health
or general well-being
concerns
affecting your
learning?

Free
wellbeing

24/7



Student
Support Info

Student Advocacy

- Helps you understand university correspondence, student-related policies and procedures, and timelines for certain matters.

Student Complaints

- Helps you navigate the complaints process around studies, student life, the University, or the University environment.

International Student Support

- Supports international students in navigating their Australian study journey.

Where can I get support outside of CDU?



1800 737 732

National sexual assault and domestic/family violence counselling service



13 11 14 or SMS 0477 13 11 14

Crisis support service



1300 22 46 36

Anxiety, depression, and crisis support service



1300 78 99 78

Relationship and family counselling service for men



1800 55 1800

Counselling and mental health support service for kids to young adults (5 – 25 years old)



1800 184 527

Counselling and mental health support service for the LGBTQIA+ community*

*Operates 3pm – midnight

Note that is not the full list of support and crisis services available to you.

Personal safety and emergency numbers

In a life-threatening emergency, call **000 (Triple Zero)** immediately for police, fire, or ambulance services. Do not wait.

Contact police on **131 444** to lodge a non-urgent police report (eg. break & enter, lost property, stolen vehicles)



Victims of
Crime NT

- **Avoid** walking through dark, poorly lit, and quiet areas at night. If possible, **walk in pairs or in a group**.
- **Do not** leave your bags & personal belongings unattended.
- **Be careful** of drink spiking when at a club/house party. Never leave your drinks unattended & refuse drinks from an open container.
- **Lock** doors & windows even if you are at home. This lowers the risk of break-ins.

Security on campus



CDU Security
Webpage



SafeZone
(Android)



SafeZone
(iOS)

- **CDU Security**
 - Patrols campuses 24/7 with uniformed officers
- **Feel unsafe? Need an escort?**
Require assistance? Call 1800 646 501 (All campuses) or use the [SafeZone App](#)
- If you are **staying on campus after hours**, make sure you **have your ID Card** on you to present to Security when requested



ESCAPE.

Move quickly and quietly away from danger.



HIDE.

Stay out of sight and silence your phones.



TELL.

Call the police by dialling 000 when it is safe.

nationalsecurity.gov.au

CDU Students - What to do?

Active Armed Offender Notification

If Inside:

- Follow directions of CDU staff.
- If no staff present, try to escape, or lock the doors, close windows and blinds. Barricade the door if necessary.
- Remain calm and silent in rooms.
- Position yourself out of view (under desks or against walls).
- Turn your phone to silent.
- Remain in location until directed to move by Emergency Services or CDU staff.

If outside:

- If unable to escape move to the nearest securable room or find something solid to hide behind.
- Follow directions of CDU staff.
- If no staff present, lock the doors, close windows and blinds. Barricade the door if necessary.
- Remain calm and silent in rooms.
- Position yourself out of view (under desks or against walls).
- Turn your phone to silent.
- Remain in location until directed to move by Emergency Services or CDU staff

Respect & safety at CDU

How can I contribute to a culture of respect, safety, and belonging?



Complete the Consent Matters module on Learnline



Ensure your behaviour doesn't hurt or damage other people



Read the CDU Student Code of Conduct



Look out for friends and those around you



Get help and support when you need it.

Disrespect, sexism, racism, and any form of harassment or violence is **not tolerated** at CDU.

- This **includes** CDU's digital services, as well as on social media/discussion forums.

Where to get help and support:

- If your **situation is urgent**, always call 000 first.
- On campus? Call Security on 1800 646 501 or use the CDU SafeZone app
- Call the **Wellbeing Support Line** on 1300 933 393 or SMS 0488 844 144

Respect & safety at CDU – Making a report

If you have witnessed or experienced any form of sexual assault or harassment, we encourage you to lodge a confidential and secure report.

This can be done anonymously and will not affect your academic record. International students are assured that a report will not affect your visa.



[Make a report](#)



[More information](#)

Respectful behaviour: boundaries

How can I contribute to a culture of respect, safety, and belonging?



Complete the Consent Matters module on Learnline



Ensure your behaviour doesn't hurt or damage other people



Read the CDU Student Code of Conduct



Look out for friends and those around you



Get help and support when you need it.

A gentle reminder that:

- Messaging CDU staff (one-off or continuously) on social media outside of approved CDU-branded channels should not be done in any circumstance.
- Asking CDU staff about CDU-related issues outside of CDU is not demonstrating good boundary setting.
- Harassment of CDU staff will not be tolerated in any circumstance.

Respectful behaviour: in class

How can I contribute to a culture of respect, safety, and belonging?



Complete the Consent Matters module on Learnline



Ensure your behaviour doesn't hurt or damage other people



Read the CDU Student Code of Conduct



Look out for friends and those around you



Get help and support when you need it.

- Focus on the presenters for the duration of each session.
- Do not watch videos on loudspeaker while the session is taking place. Put your phone on silent mode or 'Do not disturb', and if possible, in your bag.
- Show respect for the presenter and for those around you by paying attention.
- Keep conversations to a minimum, and only when active discussion time has been given.

How can I stay sun and beach safe?



BEACH FLAGS

| | |
|---|--|
|  | Always swim between the RED and YELLOW flags. |
|  | RED FLAG: No swimming. |
|  | YELLOW FLAG: Caution required. Potential Hazards. |
|  | RED AND WHITE FLAG: Evacuate the water. |
|  | BLACK AND WHITE FLAG: Surfcraft riding area boundary. |

Images: lifesaving.com.au

Slip

Slop

Slap

Seek

Slide



Image: Cancer Council Queensland

Australia's beaches can be beautiful, but here in the Territory, things are a little different.

Australia also has one of the highest rates of skin cancer in the world, so stay sun smart!

Tips:

- Swim between the red and yellow flags
- Beware of dangerous marine life (box jellyfish, Irukandji, crocodiles)
- Observe the warning signs
- Never swim at night, alone, or under the influence.

How can I be ready for a weather emergency?

- Cyclone Season officially runs from 1st November to 30th April
- Be prepared for other emergencies such as bushfires, flooding, severe storms, storm surges and earthquakes
- For weather warnings across Australia, visit bom.gov.au
- For assistance **during weather emergencies, contact the State Emergency Service on 132 500.**



Secure NT
Webpage



NSW
Emergency
Preparedness



CDU Safety
Webpage

Important dates



Key dates

Key dates such as the start of classes, census date, mid-semester break, and exam block change every semester.

To find the dates for this semester and for future semesters, check the [Key Dates webpage](#) on the CDU website.

Beyond O-Week

There are plenty more sessions, activities, and workshops once classes begin.

Check out the [Orientation webpage](#) for more information or find out what's happening on campus and online through the [Events tab on Student Portal](#).



Events on
Student Portal



Orientation
Webpage



Thank you and enjoy your time at CDU.