2011 university year off to a great start

UTAS campuses are abuzz as students have begun attending lectures and seminars for Semester one.

University Acting Vice-Chancellor Professor David Rich said that while enrolment figures are still to be finalised, student numbers have increased.

“Enrolments across the University are showing growth when compared to the same time last year,” Prof Rich said.

An estimated 8,500 first year students will begin studying at UTAS this year with another estimated 13,000 continuing their studies.

“Education continues to be an area of growth, with an increase in the number of undergraduate students studying Education at our Cradle Coast campus, as well as strong growth in the number of postgraduate Education students.

“The numbers of students undertaking postgraduate courses has also continued to increase. In particular, postgraduate nursing programs, which are offered in an extensive range of different specialisations, have increased again this year.”

Other areas showing enrolment increases in 2011 include Engineering, Philosophy, Chemistry and Pharmacy.

“We are still receiving high levels of applications from people planning to commence study in Semester one and some of these are coming in through our online system, but we also have quite a lot of people coming to our campuses for information and assistance," Prof Rich said.

The full enrolment load for semester one will not be known until late March, when the University census is undertaken.

To help students travel safely and economically, the Hobart to Launceston Redline Bus Charter is operating again this year, complete with an online booking and payment system. The service also includes a shuttle bus to take students to their UTAS campus on request.

O Week is also being held this week. Hosted by the Tasmanian University Union, O Week provides activities for students such as music, a lifestyle expo, Club and Societies Day and free food.