

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



UTAS back in force

Thousands of students have headed to the University of Tasmania this week as courses for 2009 resume and O-Week celebrations kick-start another academic year.

UTAS Vice-Chancellor Professor Daryl Le Grew said today that the numbers of students this year reflect the University's strong reputation on a local, national and international level.

Estimates so far are that there will be an across the board increase of 500 (full-time equivalents) to the student load, with UTAS expecting to again exceed 20,000 students by the end of this year. There are currently 17,884 people enrolled compared with 16,523 at the same time last year.

Prof Le Grew said the Hobart, Launceston and Cradle Coast campuses are all experiencing a high level of interest in the courses offered, with the areas showing strongest growth to date being nursing and education.

At the Launceston Campus, there are more than 1000 students enrolled in the health science programs, including nursing and midwifery, exercise science and environmental health.

The Australian Maritime College has increased its enrolment load by six per cent compared with 2008.

The Bachelor of Education in-service program for people already working in the education system, has grown to just over 700.

Prof Le Grew said it is a reflection of the quality of the degree offered that many of these students are studying from interstate, under UTAS's flexible learning programs.

At Cradle Coast, the education program has also expanded this year to be a full four-year degree course. There are now more than 150 students undertaking an education degree at the North West campus.

In Hobart, there has been solid enrolments across Faculties, with Pharmacy, Earth Sciences, Computing, Chemistry Maths and Physics all having comparable or higher enrolments to last year.

Prof Le Grew said international student numbers are strong, with undergraduate, post-graduate and research numbers up 12 per cent to 1649 equivalent full-time students.

“Our enrolment position is changing rapidly at the moment and it will do until our census date in late March,” Prof Le Grew said.

A new enrolment process has been introduced this year, which allows students to accept offers on-line for all courses.

Prof Le Grew said while students have started attending classes this week, applications for enrolment are still being received.

Information Released by:

The Media Office, University of Tasmania

Phone: 6226 2124 Mobile: 0417 517 291

Email: Media.Office@utas.edu.au