

24/07/2020

Martin Bean CBE
Vice-Chancellor
RMIT University
GPO Box 2476
Melbourne VIC 3001

Dear Vice-Chancellor,

With the support of the National Union of Students, I am writing to call for a 20% tuition fee reduction for students impacted by the transition to online learning during the COVID-19 pandemic. While I applaud RMIT's creation of a hardship fund to support students, an overwhelming number of students continue to contact me stressing the need for tuition fee reductions in addition to hardship support.

As a result of the transition to online learning, and the pressures due to COVID-19, students are concerned that they are no longer able to receive the full suite of face-to-face tuition, practical, lab and studio classes that they envisaged for their studies. Students now have a wealth of online learning options available to them, in many cases at a lower cost than RMIT full fees. I was saddened to hear that some students are considering leaving RMIT to take up other study options as a result of COVID-19. I would love to see RMIT continue as a diverse and vibrant learning community of choice for all students. I am also aware that the financial pressures caused by COVID-19 are creating difficulties for some students who may be unable to pay their tuition fees by the usual deadlines.

Accordingly, RUSU is calling on RMIT to act swiftly to:

- provide a 20% fee reduction in line with calls from the National Union of Students, before the census date for semester 2, 2020
- implement fairer fee structures for students impacted by the transition to online learning
- provide additional options for students who need to withdraw or who are struggling to pay their fees due to the pandemic

I urge you to communicate publicly with all students to provide a further explanation of RMIT's position in response to these concerns as soon as possible and prior to the census date.

Sincerely,



Daniel Hoogstra
RUSU President