

Education & Student Experience

May 2026



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Welcome to your May 2026 edition of UNSW Education & Student Experience News!

This month, we're bringing you a fresh mix of stories and updates from across our community, along with education events, teaching resources and learning opportunities - both at UNSW and beyond.

Enjoy the read, and please help us spread the word by sharing this with colleagues who may be interested in [subscribing](#).

Education news

2026 QILT Symposium: Advancing and celebrating teaching quality

Don't miss the 2026 QILT Symposium! Following last year's successful debut, the event brings together government leaders, research experts and leading academics to spotlight data-driven approaches to teaching innovation. Get inspired by insightful examples and join the national conversation on student experience. [Register now](#).



Curriculum Transformation updates

Expressions of interest are open to present at the Teaching Commons in Term 2 2026

UNSW colleagues are invited to share their expertise on teaching and curriculum design by delivering sessions between Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Teaching Commons. Topics may include redesigning assessments, Universal Design for Learning (UDL), lifelong learning, societal impact, embedding Indigenous Knowledges, enhancing learner engagement, and more. [Submit your interest](#).



💡 You can also drop into the Teaching Commons anytime from Tuesday to Thursday for a chat with our Educational Developers - no appointment needed.

Student experience news



Students share global human rights experiences

UNSW students celebrated the fifth year of the Australian Human Rights Institute's Global Student Fellowship by sharing insights from placements with organisations including Human Rights Watch and the World Food Programme. The program offers hands-on experience and career pathways in human rights and international development. [Learn more](#).



Shaping belonging and student success with Natalie Nickson

A warm welcome to Natalie Nickson, recently appointed Director of Engagement & Student Success in the Division of Education and Student Experience. A long-standing UNSW leader in student experience and belonging, Natalie brings a systems-focused approach to helping students thrive. We look forward to her impact. [Read more](#).

Stories from our community



Academic mentoring at UNSW: Supporting your learning and teaching journey

By Meredith MacAulay and A/Prof. Anna Rowe

This blog explores how evidence-based academic mentoring at UNSW supports capability building, confidence and community in learning and teaching. [Read now.](#)



When marks stop driving learning

By Prof. Elizabeth Angstmann and A/Prof. Helen Gibbon

UNSW's pilot of competency-based assessment showed clear benefits for learning and wellbeing: without the pressure of marks, students reported greater collaboration, reduced stress and deeper engagement. [Read now.](#)

Feel-good news story

Celebrating a decade of community-centred education in Cambodia

For ten years, UNSW staff and students have worked with the Royal University of Fine Arts and Phnom Penh community groups to support grassroots placemaking grounded in Southeast Asia. [Read more.](#)



More UNSW education blogs & news

View all UNSW teaching and learning blogs and news. Share your story about supporting and enhancing education and the student experience at UNSW.

[View now and submit your story.](#)

Opportunities and resources



Apply for 2026 GRIP Initiator Grant by 13 May

Don't miss your chance to apply for the 2026 Global Research & Impact Program (GRIP) Initiator Grant, with applications closing on 13 May 2026. Funding of up to AUD\$20,000 is available to support new international research or education collaborations across disciplines. Submit your application now to kickstart a high-impact global partnership. [Learn more](#).



Insights from Inspera session: Recording

The PVCE EdTech Enablement team thanks colleagues who participated in the recent Insights from Inspera session. Grant Beevers, Senior Account Manager Inspera, shared key roadmap updates and discussions to support ongoing assessment practice at UNSW. The recording and slides are now available - *for UNSW staff only*. [Access here](#).

What's on?

SoTL Studio: Drop-in session (60 mins)

Tue 2 June | 2-3pm | Face-to-face (Teaching Commons)

Thu 4 June | 2-3pm | Online

Feeling stuck with a SoTL idea or project? Drop into the SoTL Studio for informal support, practical advice and collaborative problem-solving with experienced colleagues. Open to UNSW staff at any stage of their SoTL journey. [Register now](#).



View more upcoming sessions on the [Education events page](#).

View more news

- [Last chance to register for UNSW Course Design Institute 2026](#)
- [Submit your research or case study to Transform Journal and showcase your work in university engagement](#)
- [Join the new UNSW AI Training Series and unlock AI skills for work and beyond](#)
- [Learn more about academic writing and assessment in the age of AI with Kelly-Webb Davies from the University of Oxford](#)

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UNSW Sydney



UNSW respectfully acknowledges the Bidjigal, Biripai, Dharug, Gadigal, Gumbaynggirr, Ngunnawal and Wiradjuri peoples, on whose unceded lands we are privileged to learn, teach and work. We honour the Elders of these Nations, past and present, and recognise the broader Nations with whom we walk together.

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CRICOS Provider Code 00098G | TEQSA Provider ID: PRV12055 (Australian University)

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