



# First Nations Pathways to University





# Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge Australian First Nations peoples' long-standing tradition of sustaining their communities and environments for many tens of thousands of years of occupation in Australia.

They are the first educators and first innovators. They are the holders of knowledge that makes an important contribution to the improvement of our local, national, and global communities.

We extend our respect to Elders – past, present, and emerging – and to all First Nations people.



## Wise One

He watches from above.  
He listens.  
He observes.  
He calls when danger is lurking near by.  
He dances.  
He sings.  
He shares his feathers for sacred ceremonies.  
He's humble.  
He belongs in the wild and not to be caged.  
He belongs on country.  
He is a piece of rich culture.  
He tells stories everywhere he goes.  
His presence is meaningful.

Wise one they call him.

*Sharona Bishop*





# Your pathway Your university

CDU offers a range of full-time intensive study programs, providing a supported pathway to prepare First Nations students for university study.

You can choose a program that matches your interests like health, arts and humanities, teacher education, STEM, engineering, law, or business and accounting.

The free programs offer mentors, tutors and support services to help you succeed. The programs extend beyond class sessions to help you develop a sense of connection and belonging with each other, the University, staff, support services, and in the professional community.

Once you complete your program, you will be assisted in applying for the right next course for you. This may include additional preparatory units through the Tertiary Enabling Program (TEP) or direct entry into certificates, diplomas or degrees.

The First Nations pathway programs run full-time in two x two-week intensive blocks (Monday – Friday, 9am – 4pm) at campuses across the Northern Territory. Financial support for travel and accommodation can be accessed if significant travel to the campus is required.

If you are a First Nations student interested in further education, CDU's pathway programs can be a great way to get started.



**Find out more, contact us for course dates and locations, or scan the QR code to apply or register your interest today.**

**T: (08) 8946 6479**

**E: [fnpp@cdu.edu.au](mailto:fnpp@cdu.edu.au)**

**[cdu.edu.au/study/pathway-courses](https://cdu.edu.au/study/pathway-courses)**



**#5**

**Australian  
university for  
first-in-family  
study<sup>^</sup>**

<sup>^</sup>Good Universities Guide 2025





“

**The whole program is great. It's a good pathway into seeing the potential of higher education and where it can take you – how far you can take yourself if given the opportunity.”**



Proud Jagalingou and Bandjin woman Sekari Butler discovered a passion for law and advocacy by chance. After travelling Sekari found employment as a receptionist at North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency (NAAJA) in the Katherine office. It was here that she was exposed to Australia's legal system. The First Nations Pre-Law Program allowed her to be immersed in the many facets of our legal system, including a mock court.





# First Nations Pre-Law Program

## CDU COURSE CODE

ZIPLP1

## TIMING

Full-time  
(Monday – Friday  
9am – 4pm)

January/February, 3 weeks

The First Nations Pre-Law Program is a 6-week intensive with 3-week face-to-face classes required. The course is an introduction to study law for First Nations students. This free program provides basic academic skills and knowledge in legal research, writing, reasoning and advocacy, and a pathway into CDU's Bachelor of Laws.

Gain the confidence, connections and an understanding of the expectations of higher education to pursue further study and a career in law.

When you start the program, you will have the opportunity to be connected with a tutor who can offer academic support and help you succeed. The program also provides opportunities for connection and belonging with each other, university staff and the professional legal community.

Successful completion of the program provides candidates with a pathway into the CDU Bachelor of Laws program, with the potential to commence law studies immediately after completion of the pre-law program.







# First Nations Introduction to University – Health

## CDU COURSE CODE

ZIPIP2

## TIMING

Full-time blocks  
(Monday – Friday  
9am – 4pm)

One four-week block on campus, or two separate two-week blocks on campus across the year.

The *First Nations Introduction to University* program is your first step into university. If you're an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person, 17 years or older, and thinking about studying in Health then this program will provide you with academic skills, confidence and an introduction to both study and careers in your chosen stream.

The program gives you the opportunity to work out what area of health study you might be interested in and gives an introduction to both clinical and non-clinical health careers.

Through the program, you will study two connected units; an academic skills unit and a health-specific unit which introduces the different knowledge areas of;

- > health and wellbeing
- > health policy
- > health research and
- > health management

In this course we explore with you both First Nations and Western ways of knowing, doing and sharing knowledge in health.

You can complete the program in a four-week block or spread your study over two two-week blocks. Financial support for travel and accommodation can be accessed if significant travel to the campus is required.

You will be supported throughout the program by a tutor who will help you with academic support and assessments, as well as a First Nations mentor to guide you through your transition to academic life and build a sense of belonging at CDU.

Outside the classroom, you'll participate in activities designed to connect you with fellow students, university staff, and the wider professional community.



# First Nations Introduction to University – STEM

## CDU COURSE CODE

ZIPI2

## TIMING

Full-time blocks  
(Monday – Friday  
9am – 4pm)

One four-week block on campus, or two separate two-week blocks on campus across the year.

The *First Nations Introduction to University* program is your first step into university. If you're an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person, 17 years or older, and thinking about studying in **STEM** then this program will provide you with academic skills, confidence and an introduction to both study and careers in your chosen stream.

The program gives you the opportunity to work out what area of STEM study you might be interested in and gives an introduction to environmental science and IT careers.

Through the program, you will study two connected units; an academic skills unit and a science and technology specific unit which introduces the different knowledge areas of;

- > Environmental Management
- > Information Technology (IT)
- > Aviation - Remote Pilot (using drones)
- > Applied Science for Indigenous Enterprises

In this course we explore with you both First Nations and Western ways of knowing, doing and sharing knowledge in science and technology.

You can complete the program in a four-week block or spread your study over two two-week blocks. Financial support for travel and accommodation can be accessed if significant travel to the campus is required.

You will be supported throughout the program by a tutor who will help you with academic support and assessments, as well as a First Nations mentor to guide you through your transition to academic life and build a sense of belonging at CDU.

Outside the classroom, you'll participate in activities designed to connect you with fellow students, university staff, and the wider professional community.





# First Nations Introduction to University – Teacher Education

**CDU COURSE CODE**  
ZIPIP2

**TIMING**

Full-time blocks  
(Monday – Friday  
9am – 4pm)

One four-week block on campus, or two separate two-week blocks on campus across the year.

The *First Nations Introduction to University* program is your first step into university. If you're an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person, 17 years or older, and thinking about studying in Teacher Education then this program will provide you with academic skills, confidence and an introduction to both study and careers in your chosen stream.

The program gives you the opportunity to work out what area of Teacher Education study you might be interested in and gives an introduction to different teaching careers.

Through the program, you will study two connected units; an academic skills unit and a Teacher Education specific unit which introduces some key aspects of becoming a registered teacher, including:

- > Professional Standards for teachers
- > First Nations-led education programs and initiatives
- > Embedding Indigenous ways of learning in classrooms and schools.
- > Supporting students language development and social and emotional learning.

In this course we explore with you both First Nations and

Western ways of knowing, doing and sharing knowledge in teacher education.

You can complete the program in a four-week block or spread your study over two two-week blocks. Financial support for travel and accommodation can be accessed if significant travel to the campus is required.

You will be supported throughout the program by a tutor who will help you with academic support and assessments, as well as a First Nations mentor to guide you through your transition to academic life and build a sense of belonging at CDU.

Outside the classroom, you'll participate in activities designed to connect you with fellow students, university staff, and the wider professional community.





# First Nations Introduction to University – Arts and Humanities

## CDU COURSE CODE

ZIPIP2

## TIMING

Full-time blocks  
(Monday – Friday  
9am – 4pm)

One four-week block on campus, or two separate two-week blocks on campus across the year.

The *First Nations Introduction to University* program is your first step into university. If you're an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person, 17 years or older, and thinking about studying in the **arts and humanities** then this program will provide you with academic skills, confidence and an introduction to both study and careers in your chosen stream.

The program gives you the opportunity to work out what area of the arts and humanities you might be interested in and gives an introduction to relevant career opportunities.

Through the program, you will study two connected units; an academic skills unit and a general arts unit which gives students a taste of topics in:

- > creative art and storytelling
- > political science
- > history
- > social studies

In this course we explore with you both First Nations and Western ways of knowing, doing and sharing knowledge in the arts and humanities.

You can complete the program in a four-week block or spread your study over two two-week blocks. Financial support for travel and accommodation can be accessed if significant travel to the campus is required.

You will be supported throughout the program by a tutor who will help you with academic support and assessments, as well as a First Nations mentor to guide you through your transition to academic life and build a sense of belonging at CDU.

Outside the classroom, you'll participate in activities designed to connect you with fellow students, university staff, and the wider professional community.







# First Nations Introduction to University – Business and Accounting

**CDU COURSE CODE**  
ZIPIP2

**TIMING**  
Full-time  
(Monday – Friday  
9am – 4pm)

One four-week block on campus, or two separate two-week blocks on campus across the year.

The *First Nations Introduction to University* program is your first step into university. If you're an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person, 17 years or older, and thinking about studying business or accounting then this program will provide you with academic skills, confidence and an introduction to both study and careers in your chosen stream.

The program supports you to be successful in your subsequent studies in the business and accounting fields.

Through the program, you will study two connected units; an academic skills unit and a business and accounting specific unit which provides a broader understanding of;

- > the modern global business environment,
- > ethical practices in business and accounting,
- > budgeting, book-keeping and personal taxes.

The program will also introduce you to the higher education environment and expectations for study.

You can complete the program in a four-week block or spread your study over two two-week blocks. Financial support for travel and accommodation can be accessed if significant travel to the campus is required.

You will be supported throughout the program by a tutor who will help you with academic support and assessments, as well as a First Nations mentor to guide you through your transition to academic life and build a sense of belonging at CDU.

Outside the classroom, you'll participate in activities designed to connect you with fellow students, university staff, and the wider professional community.





# First Nations Introduction to University – Engineering

## CDU COURSE CODE

ZIPI2

## TIMING

Full-time  
(Monday – Friday  
9am – 4pm)

One four-week block on campus, or two separate two-week blocks on campus across the year.

*The First Nations Introduction to University program is your first step into university. If you're an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person, 17 years or older, and thinking about studying engineering, then this program will provide you with academic skills, confidence and an introduction to both study and careers in your chosen stream.*

The program supports you to be successful in your subsequent studies in engineering fields.

The engineering program is an intensive course designed to introduce you to the experience of studying engineering at CDU.

Through the program, you will study two connected units; an academic skills unit and an engineering specific unit which provides the opportunity to learn about;

- > the role of engineers in society, and
- > the integration of Indigenous knowledge, engineering and science.

You can complete the program in a four-week block or spread

your study over two two-week blocks. Financial support for travel and accommodation can be accessed if significant travel to the campus is required.

You will be supported throughout the program by a tutor who will help you with academic support and assessments, as well as a First Nations mentor to guide you through your transition to academic life and build a sense of belonging at CDU.

Outside the classroom, you'll participate in activities designed to connect you with fellow students, university staff, and the wider professional community.



# Tertiary Enabling Program

## CDU COURSE CODE

ZTEP01

## LOCATION

Online or on campus

## TIMING

6 months full-time,  
1 year part-time.  
Starting in Semester 1,  
Semester 2 or Summer  
Semester

CDU's free Tertiary Enabling Program (TEP) is an alternative pathway into university.

Open to anyone 17 years+, TEP is another option that will give you the opportunity to develop the skills, knowledge, and confidence you need to succeed at university and can be studied either on campus or online from anywhere in Australia.



# First Nations Student Support

CDU's First Nations Student Support team provides multi-layered student support to assist Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in achieving their tertiary educational goals.

We support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students all over Australia.

We're here to help, get in touch with any queries.

## Find out more

T (08) 8946 6479

E [fnpp@cdu.edu.au](mailto:fnpp@cdu.edu.au)

[cdu.edu.au/study/pathway-courses](https://cdu.edu.au/study/pathway-courses)



Or use the QR code to apply or register your interest today.





## Student Central

Freecall: 1800 061 963

E: [study@cdu.edu.au](mailto:study@cdu.edu.au)

*You make CDU*



**[cdu.edu.au](https://cdu.edu.au)**