



Charles Sturt  
University

# Education Strategy

## Vision 2030

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# Background

## Purpose

The Education Strategy Vision is a plan for learning and teaching at Charles Sturt University.

It clearly signals our learning and teaching priorities, informs our academic operations, and guides future learning and teaching decisions. It supports the Education Strategy and its key objectives to provide:

- sector-leading course profiles
- leading-edge learning experiences
- excellence in teaching and graduate outcomes
- supportive student pathways for aspiration, equity and diversity.

## Our context and aspirations

The higher education sector is changing rapidly, with the COVID-19 pandemic over the past few years accelerating trends evident in our environment. These include a shift towards more flexible study arrangements and an increasing diversity of qualifications and awards, including micro-credentials and undergraduate certificates. The 'traditional model' of undergraduate study – three years of full-time, post-secondary education – is fragmenting, particularly for regional universities such as Charles Sturt.

With our roots firmly in regional Australia, we have always aspired to help people transform their lives, especially those who are dealing with disadvantage. We provide access, support and educational pathways that transform students into graduates who succeed, lead, change and contribute to their communities. We are committed to our students throughout their whole career journey, to help them build foundational knowledge and skills, upskill, reskill, or reimagine the work they do – and through this, the lives they lead. This transformation is evident as we remain a national leader for graduate employment outcomes. We are in, and of, our communities. We are invested in their success and their ability to thrive into the future.

Our University Strategy 2030 envisions Charles Sturt as the leading regional university in Australia, representing and empowering our communities. To achieve this vision, we need to be innovative in how we radically reimagine the way we deliver learning and teaching to address the needs of modern regional Australia. Setting the vision for the Education Strategy 2030 will guide us toward this goal over the next six years.

The Education Strategy Vision 2030 is the culmination of design thinking methodology that has led to the development of three overarching themes:

- Empower communities
- Inspire students
- Be exceptional.

These overarching themes have been iteratively built by our staff and are grounded in the reason for our existence as an institution, what we will do to achieve our vision and how we plan to do it. Following three visioning workshops, 10 signature themes emerged as the priorities that will deliver education for modern regional Australia in 2030.

The aspirational signature themes capture the uniqueness of Charles Sturt:

- our proud regional identity
- consistently being number one for employment outcomes across the country
- our commitment to equity of access to education for all.

The signature themes have been mapped at a high level across the other key strategies and projects for Charles Sturt. The Education Strategy Vision has been validated with key stakeholders and the broader academic community.



# Educating for modern regional Australia

Charles Sturt is proud of its history in regional Australia and the positive impact we continue to have with the help of our communities. We work alongside our communities to solve real-world challenges and drive regional outcomes that have a global impact, with our students and partners located in our regions, cities and around the world. To remain impactful and relevant today, and into the future, we accept our responsibility to lead the education requirements of modern regional Australia and beyond, with teaching informed by research and providing the pathways for lifelong career journeys.

## Charles Sturt's unique attributes



### Regionality

Work with our communities to solve challenges, with global impact.



### Employability

Provide employable graduates for our communities.



### Inclusivity

Equity and diversity of access to all – we don't leave people behind.

## Core attributes for being a modern tertiary institution

We need to do these well to meet the minimum expectations of modern students who live in a hybrid, customer-driven, tech-savvy world.



### Personalised student experience

Co-design student experiences that will engage.



### Learn from everyone, everywhere

Choose technology/digital/AI with social impact.



### Adaptive learning platform

Offer a learning platform that fits students' profile.



### Easy and seamless

Take away barriers – seamless in everything we do.

# Overarching themes



## Empower communities

- We are a leading regional university, addressing challenges and creating opportunities to deliver a sustainable future that ensures our regional and broader communities are able to thrive. Together our drive for regional outcomes will have global impact.
- We provide leading courses and learning offerings that are grounded in real-world experiences, integral to Charles Sturt's mission, and strongly valued by industry, partners and government.



## Inspire students

- Our students' experiences provide the confidence and inspiration for them to succeed.
- We are inclusive in our teaching across all courses, genuinely encouraging students from all backgrounds to feel valued and respected in their education journey. We integrate Indigenous Australian studies into our degrees, promoting a culturally safe world.
- We co-design and personalise experiences and provide work-integrated learning opportunities that engage students to learn, achieve and make a difference.



## Be exceptional

- We foster an inclusive, adaptive, and vibrant educational environment.
- We provide open and flexible learning and teaching platforms that students and staff use and value, and we continuously adapt for today and tomorrow's needs and expectations.
- We proactively harness emerging technologies to enhance learning and teaching outcomes and improve the experience for our students.
- We inspire staff to be the difference in a student's life.



## Signature themes

Our 10 signature themes are our enduring aspirational goals. The themes have been distilled from staff contributions and ideas collected over several months through various forums. Initiatives that will deliver on the signature themes over time are prioritised and inform the Education Strategy and its future iterations, recognising that we cannot focus on all 10 at once. Our learning architectures will provide the context and direction for how we will achieve the Education Strategy.

### Empower communities

Signature theme	Description
Building career journeys through experiences	Work-integrated learning is integral to the way we teach, the kind of courses we offer and the types of students we attract. We use experiential learning and embed authentic work-integrated experiences in our courses to provide students with the skills, attitudes and professional networks for meaningful lives and successful careers.
Educating for modern regional Australia	Informed by our research, Charles Sturt leads the identification of emerging regional issues, creates sustainable systems, provides needed graduates, and promotes excellence and equity. We will deliver a growth strategy that responds to regional Australia's opportunities and needs. Our drive for regional outcomes will have global impact.
Partnering for real regional solutions	We connect with our regional communities to identify challenges that need to be solved, such as changing climates, resource scarcity and healthy populations. We will continue to share our infrastructure and other assets, and empower our thought leaders to meaningfully collaborate with our communities to research, develop and deliver solutions. From renewable energy hubs and decarbonised regional industries to forward-thinking regional health solutions, internet connectivity and access for all. Partnerships will align with our courses and student learning aspirations and we will be active in our regional areas.

# Inspire students

Signature theme	Description
Creating seamless pathways	We are innovative in our approach to create seamless pathways from local schools, TAFEs and industry to university. We are forward-looking and adaptive, offering varied forms of lifelong learning to support people from all backgrounds and in all aspects and aspirations of their career journey, acknowledging their skills and experiences. We lead in supporting student pathways for equity and diversity and are committed to providing higher education to First Nations peoples.
We're for students	We are committed to teaching across all courses in ways that are inclusive for students, understanding our students and their needs and being there to provide assistance at all stages of the student journey. We genuinely encourage students from all backgrounds to feel valued and respected in their education journey, to ensure students achieve their goals while receiving an excellent student experience.
Meeting students at their place of learning	Whatever the age and whatever the stage, we put ourselves in our students' shoes. We meet them wherever they are in terms of their career journey, location and life, connecting them with the options they need – from pathways, credit, accelerated degrees, short-form learning, flexibility and more. We provide a supportive and culturally safe place to learn that supports their progression, and students will return to us as their preferred education provider over the course of their career, building a partnership for lifelong learning.

# Be exceptional

Signature theme	Description
Exceptional educators	Striving for academic excellence, our teaching is at the core of our identity, informed by research and impactful for students. Our educators are highly regarded, well supported and make a significant and unique contribution delivering tailored student learning experiences. Our educators draw inspiration from the lived experiences of their students, as well as First Nations ways of being, knowing and doing to transform lives by meeting the student 'where they are'.
Sharpening the choices	Our course offerings align with the needs of industry, community and our partners. We have clearly defined what we mean by on campus and online. We will provide curated choices for students that are consistent with our unique attributes, while delivering courses in a way that contributes to our university's sustainability long term.
The technologies we use	The vast range of new and changing tools and capabilities offer endless opportunities to inspire and empower our students to learn and assist staff to be innovative and exceptional in how they teach. We will be selective in the technology we use, always choosing fit-for-purpose tools that deliver the best outcomes in our learning environments for our students. We will create an innovation hub to provide free access to learning resources, from Open Educational Resources (OERs) and innovative spaces to test new and emerging technologies, including VR/AI/digital tools for staff and students.
Simplicity in everything we do	Considering the needs of our students and staff, we have a relentless focus on simplifying our processes to make interaction with us valuable and productive. We are committed to end-to-end service redesign of university services. This will bring about the change we need to continually provide an exceptional student experience.





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