

Shepparton Campus Plan

Indigenous Acknowledgement

La Trobe University proudly acknowledges the Yorta Yorta and Bangerang Country. We acknowledge the beautiful and unique landscape, waterways and animals of this area.

Elders of the Yorta Yorta Bangerang communities and their Ancestors are the traditional custodians of this land for many centuries. We acknowledge their living culture and their continuing roles in the life of this region.

About this plan

This plan should be read in conjunction with the *La Trobe University Strategic Plan 2020-2030* and *La Trobe University's Strategy for Regional Activity*, which together provide the overall strategic direction for the University and for the way we will operate as a multi campus university. These renewed strategies are necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent effects on our community, the way we work and the finances of the University. This plan is written in the context of becoming a smaller, more sharply focussed institution.

About the campus

The Shepparton campus, established in 1994, plays a vital economic, educational, social and cultural role in the community. The campus is a key part of Shepparton's education precinct, alongside Goulburn Ovens TAFE (GOTAFE) and close to the location of the new Greater Shepparton Secondary College, an important piece of educational and community infrastructure for the region. We are proud to support the Shepparton Education Plan and work with GOTAFE, community partners and local schools.

The University will continue to increase access to higher education in Shepparton and offer quality programs that appeal to students and address regional workforce need. We will support the region's economy by providing skilled, highly employable graduates, as well as short courses, post graduate training, research partnerships and development opportunities for local professionals to upskill or refocus their careers. We also seek to provide opportunity for those who have missed out on higher education previously to return to study to improve their skills and employability.

The University will inform community debate by holding public events, workshops, seminars, public lectures and educational programs, that facilitate lively discourse and discussion and provide thought leadership on the issues that matter to the community.

Our partnership with Greater Shepparton City Council is of strategic importance to the University. Partnerships with local education providers, health and human services, artistic and cultural bodies and community organisations are equally important in ensuring access and opportunity, and excellent graduate outcomes. Looking forward, we will work together to ensure our strategic and operational plans are symbiotic and allow each partner to benefit.

TAFE and Schools

We will build on our close work with GOTAFE to develop a comprehensive partnership that best serves the community through coordinated activity and the extension of pathways between vocational and higher education. A focus of our work with GOTAFE will be to develop seamless pathways to careers in areas of student demand and workforce need.

Our deep partnerships with both primary and secondary schools will become even more important as we work to mitigate the potential long-term impact of COVID-19 on the education of a generation of

primary and secondary students. Students and staff from our School of Education will support primary and secondary schools in their foundational work to enable all members of the community to reach their full potential.

Health, aged care and human services

La Trobe receives Commonwealth funding as a University Department of Rural Health (UDRH). The UDRH has a strong research focus that is driven by the beneficial outcomes for each unique community. La Trobe Rural Health School (LRHS) is the largest rural health school in Australia. Our strong partnerships with health and community services provides research opportunities, student placements, student employment and graduates for their workforce.

Course portfolio

Expanding the range of delivery modes will enable us to offer greater choice in our course portfolio. Delivery of courses will be on campus, mixed mode or online, with some place-based and intensive subjects. We will focus on areas of proven student demand and offer more qualification types to support first time university students, along with those who are reskilling and ongoing professional development. *See appendix A – Campus course portfolio*

Online courses

The full suite of La Trobe online courses will be actively promoted. This provides a significant opportunity for Shepparton students, who can choose how and when they study. Studying online provides greater flexibility and students can engage when they want (daytime, evenings, weekends), where they want (home, the office or on the move), and how they want (accelerated or part-time). For example, Shepparton students can study relevant programs such as Bachelor of Early Childhood Education and Master of Nursing (Nurse Practitioner).

Short courses

Guided by the Colleges and Schools, and in consultation with our industry partners regarding local need, we will offer short courses. Courses at Certificate or Diploma level maybe embedded in existing larger qualifications. We will also offer non-award courses to address workforce skill need. This will include Executive Education and Continuing Professional Development courses such as *Using Social Media for Business, Data Visualisation with Tableau and Advanced Pain Management*.

International

We seek to mobilise our regional campus network to deliver unique and rewarding experiences for our international students and international engagement opportunities for our regional business and community partners. Our regional campuses deliver niche specialisations, place-based education, research expertise, and collaborative partnerships with local and international partners that provide opportunities to grow our international cohort in the regions.

International students will continue to be welcomed into courses that meet the delivery requirements for CRICOS registration. In many cases, international students studying at regional campuses such as Shepparton have selected these locations due to family and personal connection in the region. The partnership with GOTAFE will continue to be leveraged for international student pathways and the recruitment of high-quality students who wish to progress into degree studies.

Unique place-based education and experiences will be identified and leveraged to build short-term and semester-long study abroad programs for visiting international students seeking an authentic and engaged Australian study experience.

Regional Connect – to enhance student experience & employability

Regional Connect will deliver unique set of on campus and virtual activities for students relevant to the local context and linked to place, designed to enrich their experience, enhance their employability and connect them with local industry. *Regional Connect* is available for students studying online, mixed mode or on campus, and living within travelling distance of the Shepparton campus. *Regional Connect* activities will be contributed to by all parts of the University and curated and delivered at campus level. We will introduce our students to each other, to local business and industry partners and enhance academic engagement, social connection and employability. The *Collaboration Hub* will play a key role in identifying opportunities for students to link with industry.

Collaboration Hub – to link community and industry and the University

Collaboration Hubs will connect staff and students to local communities, employers, industry and alumni. In turn, the hubs will connect local industries and community with the campus and the wider University to facilitate mutually beneficial opportunities for learning and research. *Collaboration Hubs* will play a key role in identifying opportunities for *Regional Connect* activities as well as Research and Industry Engagement.

Research

- Key industry /community partnerships
 - Food, agriculture and environment – *Agriculture and food engineering*
 - Health and wellbeing - *including indigenous health*
 - Society, education and social change – *Traditional Owner Organisations, Schools, Arts, Government and Community*

The campus will serve as a collaboration hub to drive engagement with food and agriculture industries, along with schools, health and community organisations in Central Victoria. Shepparton's Aboriginal heritage and vibrant multi-cultural population have provided researchers opportunities to forge partnerships with organisations that have deep roots in their communities¹. Partnerships with Department of Education and Training have investigated the future aspirations of young people in mid/late year secondary schooling.

We will promote innovation in practical R&D to address the key challenges of the region in horticulture and natural resource management, working directly with the community and through its membership of the Committee for Greater Shepparton.

How we will develop the research capability of academic staff

A program of capability development will have four key pillars:

- Ensuring that academic staff based at regional campuses are connected with the research development activities of the university as a whole, including the Research Education and Development (RED) Program and Grants Pipeline. The recent shift of these programs to online platforms has demonstrated that we can serve our multi-campus community with quality online development offerings.
- Supporting researchers in developing skills to engage with industry for research translation, to support entrepreneurs and start-ups in the community to translate ideas into thriving businesses and provide students with hands on entrepreneurial experiences. Engagement training for researchers will be developed and run in partnership with RED to support building researcher capacity to engage with industry.

¹ The Rumbalara Aboriginal Cooperative and the Ethnic Council of Greater Shepparton are two such organisations, the latter partnering on a project on Improving Work and Wellbeing for Regionally Based Migrants in Australia.

- Ensuring that Research Themes, in their role of driving a problem-based and externally engaged approach to delivering research with impact, have a whole-of-university remit and regionally based research leaders are accountable for mentoring early- and mid-career researchers on campus.
- Developing a dedicated and focused plan for infrastructure investment which incorporates the research infrastructure needs of regional research that is aligned to the Research Themes.

Industry Engagement

Industry Engagement support will be targeted to emerging opportunities for local industry. The Collaboration Hub will provide a physical and virtual front door for businesses to access our research, and education to support their digital transformation.

The Innovation & Entrepreneurship Program has a strong focus on regional campuses and communities to promote and support the development of start-ups and small businesses across regional Victoria. I&E Programs will have a particular focus on regional communities with strong engagement with starts ups and SMEs across regional Victoria. The I&E program will continue to provide support through programs and a proposed virtual start up community which will foster connections and provide support to regional starts ups and small businesses.

La Trobe Art Institute

La Trobe Art Institute (LAI) can be imagined as the University's public-facing hub of arts practices, engagement and collections. LAI's vision is to support La Trobe's presence in the regions through arts and cultural activity that interlinks University research, student experience, industry, geographical area and community. La Trobe, industry and community partnerships are key.

LAI supports the University's partnership goals through alliances with major cultural institutions including Shepparton Art Museum, Bendigo Art Gallery, Murray Art Museum Albury (MAMA), National Gallery of Victoria and Islamic Museum of Australia. LAI will strategically develop its future programs with the aim of increasing La Trobe's reputation and profile in the regions and enhancing student life.

Community Connections

La Trobe's community connections in Shepparton, and the surrounding region, are one of our biggest assets and enable us to deeply enrich our students' university experience. We are connected to industry and the community on many levels.

Our staff serve on boards and committees and participate in events, organisations and festivals across the region and through these connections, and our more formal partnerships, arise opportunities for work-integrated learning, place-based subjects, internships, placements, volunteering, mentoring and industry PhDs and more. We will continue to encourage staff engagement on boards and committees and seek to map our community and industry networks to fully utilise these connections.

Alumni are another significant connection and resource for students. In Shepparton almost five thousand La Trobe alumni² live within 50kms of the campus. We will foster their continued connection to the University and leverage their knowledge and networks to enrich our students' experience.

Regional Advisory Board (RAB)

The Board comprises members of the Shepparton community who have an interest in higher education, and its relationship with the region, and bring skills relevant to the strategic direction of the Campus and University. Membership of the Shepparton Regional Advisory Board is by invitation

² Alumni located within 50km of the campus, including non-contactable, as at 17 Sept 2020

of the Vice-Chancellor. We will continue to work with the Shepparton Regional Advisory Board to seek advice, and advocacy.

Members:

Name	Position
Sam Birrell (Chair)	CEO, Committee for Greater Shepparton
Will Adams	General Manager, Shepparton Advisor
Geraldine Christou	Director of Sustainable Development, Greater Shepparton Council
Mark De Paola	Director & Optometrist, Graham Hill Eyecare
Lisa McKenzie	Executive Officer, Greater Shepparton Lighthouse
Karen Parhaar	Director, Plus1 Group Accountants
Genevieve Simson	Executive Principal, Greater Shepparton Secondary College
Kellie Thompson	Director of Quality and Clinical Service Planning, Goulburn Valley Health

Appendix A

This list of courses below is correct as of 11 November 2020, noting that decisions around course portfolio are standard and regularly occurring.

As set out in our Strategic Plan, Strategy for Regional Victoria and change proposals, the financial impact of COVID-19 means that regrettably some courses and subjects that are not financially sustainable will be suspended.

Shepparton ASSC Course Portfolio 2021

School	Course Title	Mode of Delivery 2021
LBS	Bachelor of Business	Mixed Mode
LBS	Bachelor of Business (Accounting)	Mixed Mode
LBS	Bachelor of Business/Bachelor of Arts	Mixed Mode
LBS	Diploma in Business	Mixed Mode
LBS	Master of Business Administration	Mixed Mode
LBS	Bachelor of Business (Agribusiness)	Mixed Mode
SoE	Bachelor of Early Childhood and Primary Education	On Campus
SoE	Bachelor of Educational Studies	On Campus
HUSS	Bachelor of Arts	Mixed Mode
HUSS	Diploma of Arts	Mixed Mode

ASSC Online 2021

School	Course Title	Mode of Delivery 2021
LBS	Master of Business Administration	Online
LBS	Master of Management	Online
LBS	Master of Management (Entrepreneurship and Innovation)	Online
LBS	Master of Management (Human Resource Management)	Online
LBS	Master of Management (Project Management)	Online
SoE	Bachelor of Early Childhood Education	Online

Shepparton SHE Course Portfolio 2021

School	Course Title	Mode of Delivery 2021
LRHS	Diploma of Health Sciences	Mixed Mode
LRHS	Bachelor of Nursing	On Campus
LRHS	Bachelor of Social Work (Honours)	On Campus
LRHS	Master of Social Work	On Campus

SHE online 2021

School	Course Title	Mode of Delivery 2021
LRHS	Graduate Certificate in Mental Health	Online
LRHS	Master of Mental Health	Online
LRHS	Master of Mental Health Nursing	Online
SAH	Bachelor of Food and Nutrition	Online
SAH	Master of Disability Practice	Online
SEMS	Bachelor of Applied Cloud Technology	Online
SEMS	Bachelor of Applied Information Technology	Online
SNM	Master of Nursing (Nurse Practitioner)	Online
SNM	Master of Nursing Science	Online
SPPH	Bachelor of Psychological Science	Online (StudyFlex)
SPPH	Bachelor of Psychology (Honours)	Online (StudyFlex)
SPPH	Graduate Certificate in Occupational Health, Safety and Ergonomics	Online
SPPH	Master of Business Administration and Master of Health Administration	Online (StudyFlex)
SPPH	Master of Ergonomics, Safety and Health	Online
SPPH	Master of Health Administration	Online (StudyFlex)
SPPH	Master of Public Health	Online (StudyFlex)
SPPH	Master of Public Health and Master of Health Administration	Online (StudyFlex)