



# Future Campus – Frequently asked questions

## FAQs for Future Campus

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### Why do we need Future Campus?

- We want campus spaces that are inviting, inspiring, functional and fit for purpose.
- The campus purpose and the way we are using spaces have changed and continue to evolve.
- Demand is high for more improved and fit-for-purpose spaces.
- We need to articulate our shared space principles to enhance student, staff and visitor experience and invest sustainably in our spaces.
- Improvements in our current space use, future space planning and decant space provision are key to enabling future development and innovation.

### When is this going to happen?

- **Principles:** (our shared aspirations and objectives for future spaces): consultation planned for June 2024, publication by August 2024.
- **Guidelines:** (translation of principles into functional design) will be refined with the completion of the pilots (into 2025) and updated annually.
- **Pilot projects:** Will test guidelines into 2025.
- **Masterplan:** Will take into consideration the Future Campus outputs as well as demand forecasting and strategic asset management considerations.

### Implementation

- **Various:** Implementation of the principles will happen as new and refreshed spaces are provisioned on a project-by-project basis. Alongside Future Campus, Estate Management is working on master planning and space modelling using demand forecasts and audits. This is a complex jigsaw. Information relating to projects in your individual area will be provided through your business partner as usual.

### How is sustainability being considered?

Sustainability is at the core of the Future Campus project.

- Finding opportunities to use space more effectively and designing new spaces to be flexible and adaptable to our changing needs (thereby reducing the requirement for subsequent refurbishments) is both environmentally and financially more sustainable.
- Sustainable design principles are embedded in the Future Campus outputs and detailed in sustainability standards developed by the Estate Management Sustainability Team. Examples include:
  - Modular design: for example, where an office space = the size of a small meeting room and two quiet rooms
  - Sustainable procurement (such as agreeing a University-wide limited selection of furniture, which can be reused in refurbishments across the campus)

## FAQs for Education and Student Experience

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**What is the direction we are going in:**

**- Are we moving to all rooms being hybrid?**

**- Are we getting rid of large lecture theatres?**

- With teaching pedagogies increasingly diversified and students wanting maximum flexibility, the precise mix of delivery modes and space requirements into the future are very hard to predict.
- Our consultation has included:
  - taking guidance from the Education & Student Experience working group (DVC Education & Student Experience; Associate / Deputy / Vice Deans Education, academics, Division of Education & Student Experience, Library, Timetabling, IT, Estate Management)
  - the input of a teaching space expert who has run interviews and focus groups
  - faculty workshops.
- The emerging themes from this consultation:
  - Large-tiered lecture theatres are still required but not to the same extent, i.e. we shouldn't build more of them.
  - Large flat floor spaces have been requested.
  - Hybrid is increasing, but we will not be moving to majority hybrid delivery in the future. There will still be a requirement for all in-person and all online activities.
  - Flexibility and adaptability are key to support emerging trends.

**Are you connected with the Campus MAVI project? How does IT fit into this?**

- Yes, the Future Campus and Campus MAVI projects meet regularly. (MAVI project is transforming the AV experience for multimedia AV and immersive technology in CATS, meeting spaces).
- We also have representatives from IT in attendance at all our working groups.

## FAQs for Workspace

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**How will these principles affect my workspace?**

- Principles will be applied to all new refurbishments and new buildings.
- New workspaces will allow for a variety of work activities performed on campus and will aim to sustainably use our buildings based on current and future use.
- The model will include the concept of 'neighbourhoods' that provide an anchor and zone where teams feel a sense of belonging.
- We are moving away from large rows of open plan desks and acknowledge this type of allocation does not work for those who perform tasks that require quiet, focused work such as academics.
- The principles recognise staff are not sitting at their desk all day – they come to campus to collaborate (both in person, requiring shared spaces, and online requiring individual acoustically isolated spaces).

*How will we get this right?*

- We are developing guidelines with input from experts, extensive modelling, touring a variety of spaces and testing in different pilots.
- Co-design, creating spaces that work for their occupants. At a project level there will be detailed consultation with teams and individuals to ensure that there are sufficient desks, meeting rooms, quiet spaces and social spaces.
- There will be support to transition to new ways of working and provision of appropriate support and guidance for the new spaces.
- You will have a chance to provide feedback on these in early 2024.

**How will spaces be allocated?**

- New workspaces will shift away from individual allocation to more bookable spaces with a greater variety of spaces to choose from.
- There will be a variety of spaces, and quantities of each will be dependent on the needs of the group and considerations including work patterns, time on campus and nature of work.
- Access to a significant provision of focus rooms and bookable offices is part of the suite of offerings in the new approach to designing workspaces.
- The workspace guidelines will inform the thresholds for the ratio of 'enclosed space' (such as offices and meeting rooms) to 'open space' (such as open meeting spaces, workstations and breakout spaces).
- Sustainability is a critical driver. There are underutilised spaces across the University and we have a responsibility not to continue to waste energy constructing and servicing poorly used workspaces.

**Are home offices being considered?**

At this stage this is not something that is in the scope of Future Campus.

***FAQs for Research and Entrepreneurial Campus***

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**How can you apply blanket rules to research when it is so specialised?**

- We are genuinely using pilots to test what is and isn't possible in terms of University-wide guidelines.
- It is recognised that research is very specialised, and no projects will be undertaken without detailed consultation with the right research contacts and expert input.
- It's also recognised that:
  - there are likely opportunities to free up space in certain areas
  - there is a need for us to be more responsive to accommodate new research space needs.
- There are some good examples within the UNSW research community of how activity-based labs and core facilities can work well, if supported in the right way.
- There may be further opportunities to apply this elsewhere at the University, which would free up space for research priorities and growth.
- Our consultation has included:
  - taking guidance from the Research & Entrepreneurial Campus working group working group (PVC Research & PVC Research Infrastructure, Associate / Deputy / Vice Deans of Research, IT and MWAC)
  - Pilot projects have included interviews and tours with Heads of Schools, School Managers, Lab managers and surveys of Principle Investigators/Group Heads.

***FAQs for Campus Experience***

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If you have a question regarding the Campus Experience pillar, please include it in your response to the Space Principles survey.