

Student and Community Survey Report (Updated Edition)
Compiled to inform the UTAS Arts & Humanities consultation
process – June 2025



Proposed Cuts to Arts & Humanities at the University of Tasmania

Survey conducted: June 1 – 17, 2025

Total responses: 134

Updated version July 9, 2025 – the earlier July 2025 had an incorrectly duplicated table under figure 6.

This updated report builds on an earlier version released in mid-June, which summarised findings from the first 102 responses. Since then, a further 32 responses have been received – extending the timeframe and providing a broader, deeper insight into community views.

As before, this report captures the voices of current students, past students, prospective students, and concerned community members in response to the proposed staff and course cuts in the College of Arts, Law and Education (CALE) at UTAS.

Prepared by: Save UTAS Arts Campaign

Contact: saveutasarts@gmail.com

Campaign link hub: linktr.ee/save_utas_arts

Methodological Note

This survey was conducted between **June 1 and June 17, 2025** using Google Forms and received a total of **134 responses**. While not a formally representative sample of all UTAS students, the volume and urgency of responses — particularly within the initial three days — indicate a strong desire among students and supporters to be heard. The additional responses submitted in the following fortnight further reinforce the strength, depth, and consistency of sentiment expressed.

The survey was anonymous and promoted primarily through the student-led **Save UTAS Arts** Instagram account. Social media graphics were also shared on Facebook, Discord, and other platforms to encourage broader participation through peer networks.

As a result, responses reflect the views of a specific but diverse and engaged cohort — primarily students directly affected or closely connected to the proposed cuts to Arts and Humanities.

While we cannot verify the identity of individual respondents, the recurring themes and large volume of thoughtful, qualitative responses point to a meaningful and authentic snapshot of student and community concern. Even if a small number of responses were insincere (and we found no evidence of this), the overall trends remain compelling.

This document should not be interpreted as formal quantitative research, but rather as **a clear and powerful reflection of community sentiment** — what students value, what they fear losing, and how they are experiencing this moment of institutional upheaval.

Section 1: Quantitative Findings

This section presents results from the multiple-choice and scaled-response questions in the survey. Each question is accompanied by a chart, a summary of key patterns, and a brief interpretation of what the data suggests. These findings offer a high-level view of how respondents understood the proposed changes, how concerned they are, and how they perceive the university's communication and consultation efforts.

Section 1: Who Responded

This section outlines who completed the survey — including their relationship to UTAS and their area of study. These responses show that the survey reached a wide group of people, with strong representation from those most affected by the proposed cuts.

Figure 1: Respondent Type

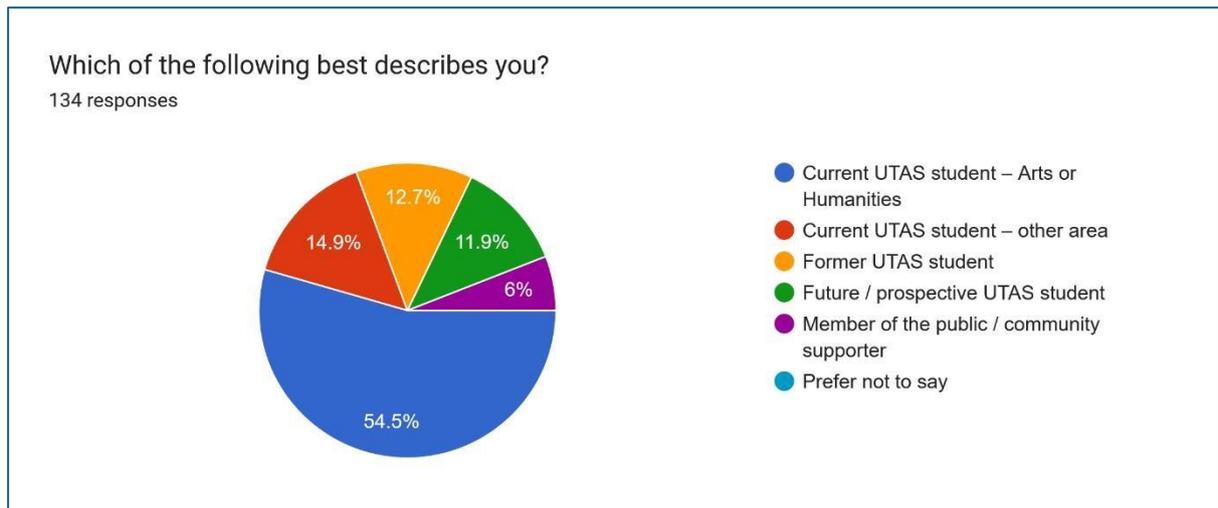


Figure 1: Respondent Type

This chart shows the breakdown of survey respondents by their relationship to UTAS — including current students, former students, prospective students, and members of the public.

Interpretation:

This response breakdown shows the survey reached its core audience — current UTAS Arts and Humanities students — while also including meaningful input from students in other faculties, alumni, future students, and community members. The strong showing from current Arts students reinforces the urgency and direct relevance of the concerns shared throughout the survey. It also highlights broader community interest and support for the continuation of arts education at UTAS.

Figure 2: Area of Study

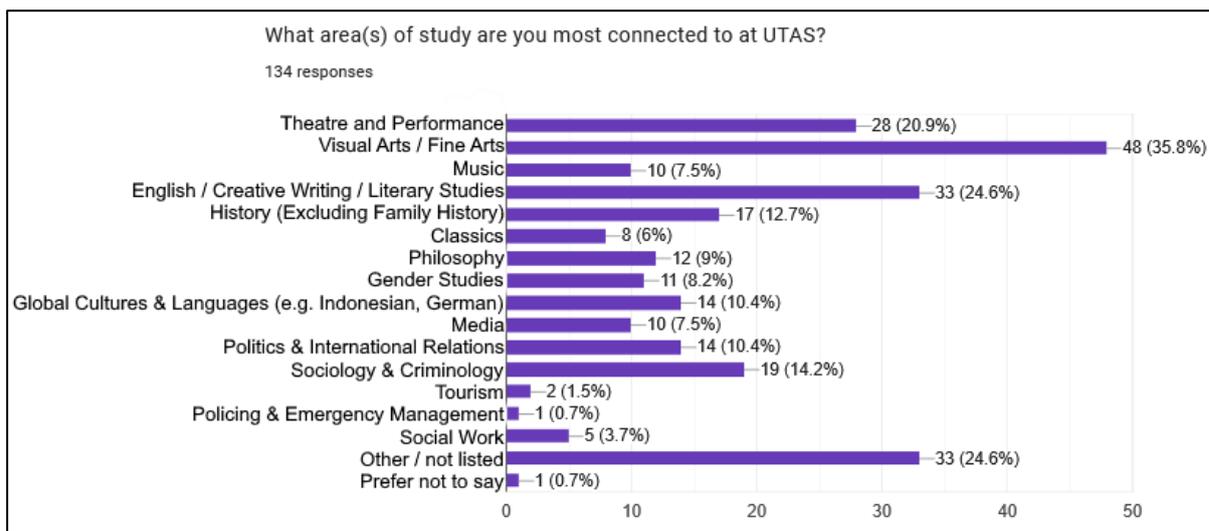


Figure 2: Area of Study

Disciplines represented by survey respondents, including Theatre, Philosophy, English, Creative Writing, and others. Many respondents selected more than one area.

Interpretation:

This chart shows that the most commonly represented disciplines include Visual Arts, English, and Theatre, alongside a diverse spread of areas such as History, Philosophy, Music, and Classics. While Theatre and Fine Arts are among the areas directly affected by the proposed changes, the prominence of other disciplines suggests widespread concern across the broader Arts and Humanities community. Notably, around a quarter of respondents also listed disciplines outside the core Arts areas — showing that support for the humanities extends beyond CALE students alone. Many respondents selected more than one area of study, reflecting the interdisciplinary nature of CALE programs and the broader ripple effects these cuts may have across the university.

Section 2: Awareness and Communication

This section explores how respondents first heard about the proposed changes to the Arts and Humanities at UTAS, how well-informed they feel, and their levels of concern. These findings highlight the effectiveness of communication channels and how much clarity students and community members feel they've received from the university.

Effective communication is a critical part of any institutional change process. This section focuses on how survey respondents became aware of the proposed cuts, how informed they felt about the details, and how concerned they are. The responses suggest that UTAS's formal communication may have failed to reach or reassure many affected individuals — with most respondents learning about the changes through informal channels and student-led initiatives.

Figure 3: Awareness of the Proposed Cuts

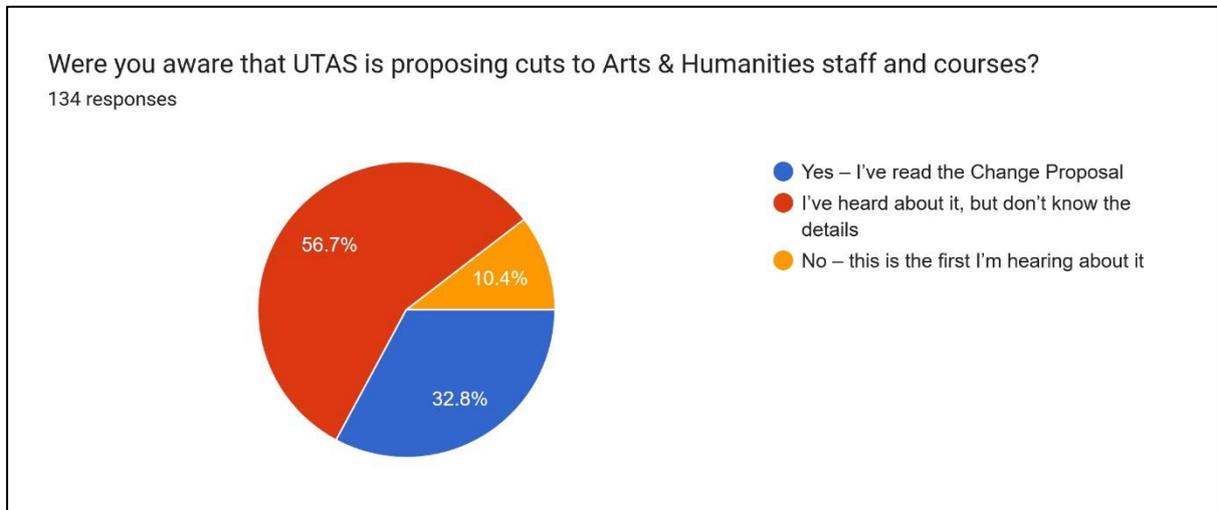


Figure 3: Awareness of the Cuts

Respondents were asked how aware they were of the proposed changes to Arts and Humanities at UTAS. Options ranged from having read the full proposal to not having heard about the cuts at all prior to this survey.

Updated Interpretation:

The majority of respondents (56.7%) had only a vague awareness of the proposed changes — they had heard about the cuts but didn't know the details. A smaller proportion (32%) reported having read the official Change Proposal, and notably, 10.4% said this survey was the first time they had heard about it.

These results are especially concerning given that this data was collected later in the consultation period. Compared to the original survey window, fewer students had read the proposal, and more had never heard of it at all — suggesting that UTAS's communication efforts may have stalled or failed to reach large sections of the student body.

Rather than improving over time, awareness appears to have plateaued or even declined in some areas. This further underscores a serious communication gap: the university's formal consultation process has not effectively informed or engaged many of the students it affects. Awareness continues to be driven primarily by student-led campaigns like Save UTAS Arts, informal peer networks, and social media — not by official university communications.

Figure 4: How Respondents Heard About the Cuts

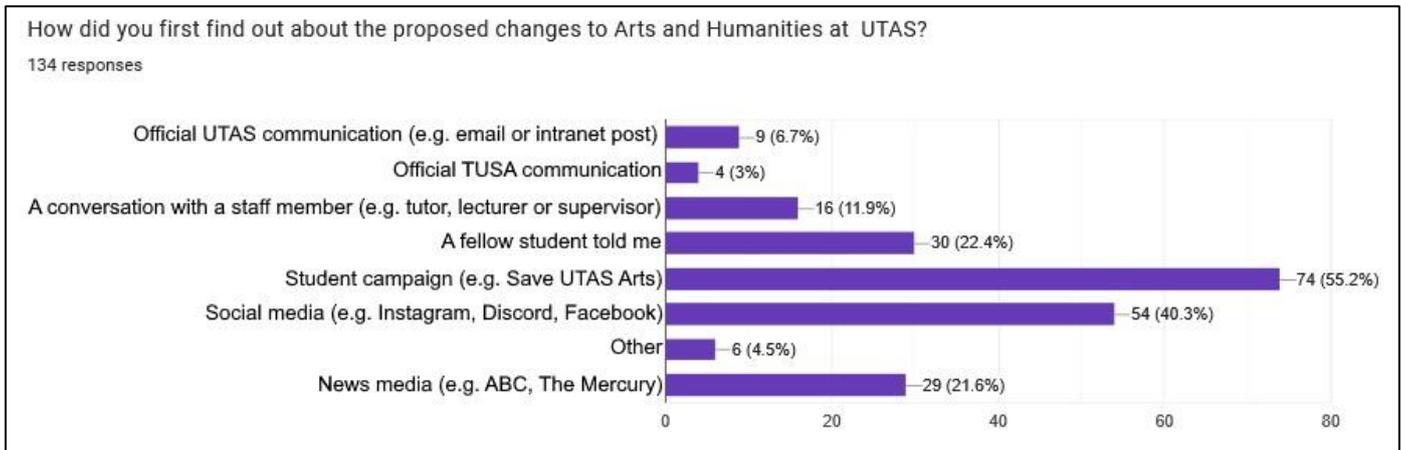


Figure 4: How Respondents Found Out About the Cuts

Respondents were asked how they first became aware of the proposed changes to Arts and Humanities at UTAS. Options included the Save UTAS Arts campaign, word of mouth, conversations with staff, and official university channels. Some respondents selected more than one area.

Interpretation:

The most common way respondents found out about the proposed changes was through the Save UTAS Arts campaign, followed by word of mouth — including conversations with other students or staff — and public sources like social media and news media. Only a very small number of respondents reported learning about the cuts through official UTAS communication channels.

Strikingly, just 3% of respondents cited TUSA as their source of information. Given TUSA’s role as the peak student body, this suggests that its communication channels are not currently effective in reaching or informing the broader student population.

Overall, this data reinforces the pattern seen elsewhere in the survey: that student-led initiatives and informal peer networks have played a far more significant role in raising awareness than the university’s formal consultation strategy. This raises serious concerns about the transparency, accessibility, and legitimacy of the process — especially when official structures are failing to keep students informed.

Perceptions of Information and Concern

This section explores how informed respondents felt about the proposed changes and how concerned they are. These responses provide insight into both the quality of communication from UTAS and the emotional and academic impact of the proposed staff and course reductions.

Figure 5: How Informed Do You Feel About How These Changes Could Affect Your Study or Discipline?

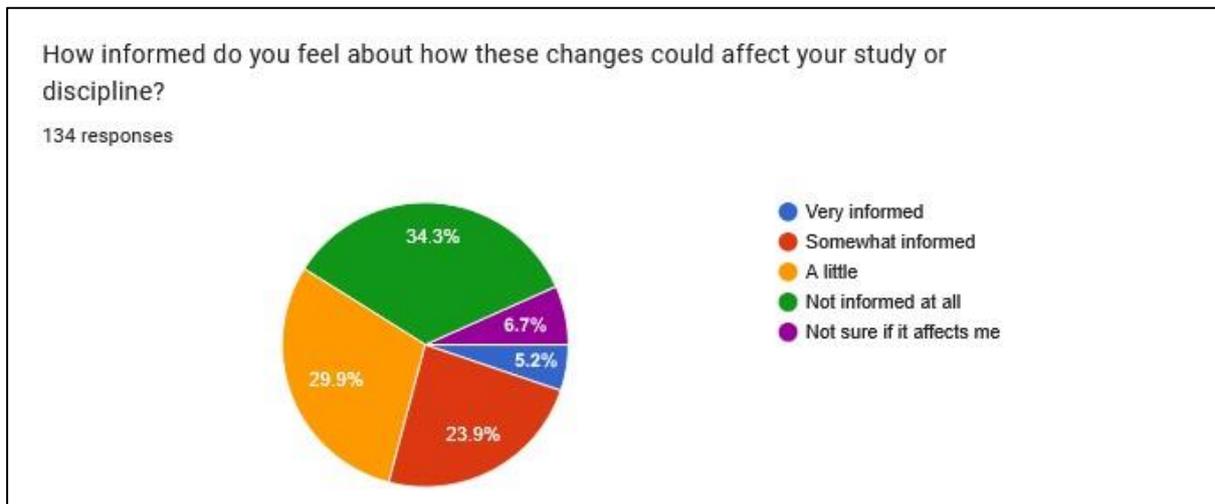


Figure 5: Feeling Informed About Personal Impact

Respondents were asked how informed they feel about how the proposed changes could affect their specific area of study, teaching, or discipline. Responses ranged from “Very informed” to “Not at all informed.”

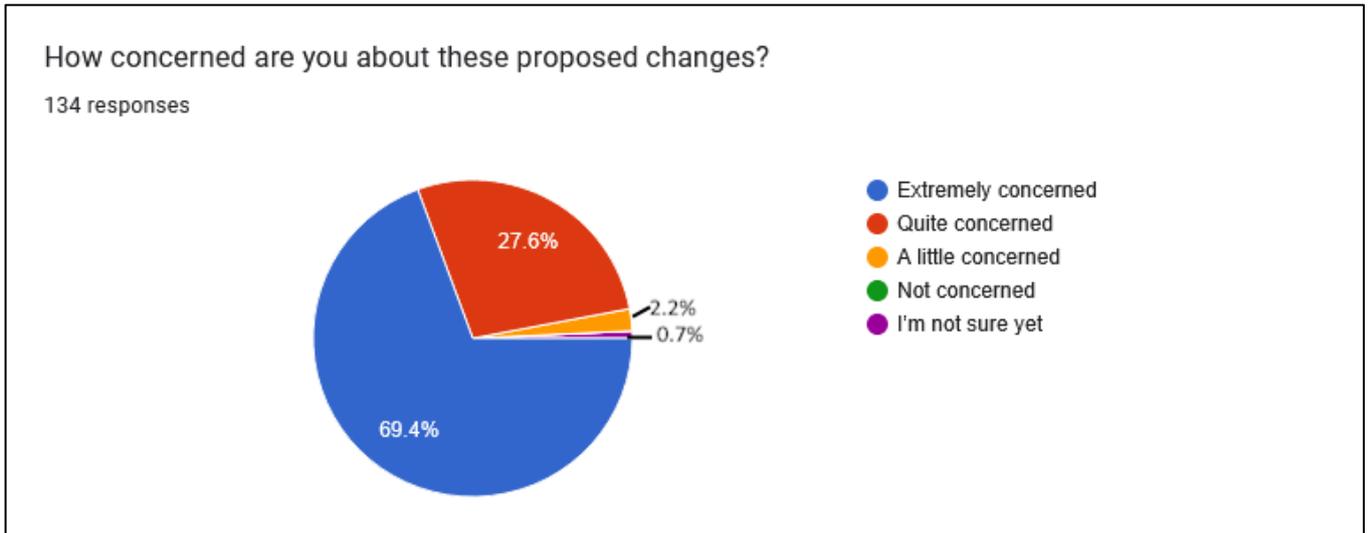
Interpretation:

The majority of respondents reported feeling *not informed at all* or only *somewhat informed*, with very few selecting “very informed.” This indicates that even among students who are aware of the Change Proposal, most lack a clear understanding of how it will affect them — whether through changes to unit availability, degree structures, or staff reductions.

This gap in understanding has serious implications for the legitimacy of the consultation process. If students are unclear about what is changing, they cannot meaningfully participate in responding to it. From an ethical standpoint, students deserve the opportunity to respond to changes that directly affect their education, community, and wellbeing — especially in a publicly funded university.

Some senior leaders have suggested that current students will be unaffected because UTAS is required to “teach out” existing courses. However, this survey reveals a different reality: students are already feeling the impacts — emotionally, socially, and culturally. The proposed cuts are not just administrative changes; they represent a visible erosion of the arts in Tasmania and the student culture that surrounds them. See the rest of the survey for a deeper reflection of this impact, in students’ own words.

Figure 6: How Concerned Are You About the Proposed Changes?



Interpretation:

Figure 6: Level of Concern About the Proposed Cuts

Respondents were asked how concerned they feel about the proposed staff and course cuts to Arts and Humanities at UTAS. Response options ranged from “Not at all concerned” to “Extremely concerned.”

An overwhelming majority of respondents reported feeling *very* or *extremely concerned* about the proposed changes. Only a small fraction selected “not concerned” or “slightly concerned,” showing that levels of distress and urgency are high among both students and members of the wider community.

This pattern makes it clear that the cuts are not being seen as a routine or administrative adjustment. They are widely understood as a serious threat to the quality, accessibility, and identity of Arts and Humanities education at UTAS. The intensity of concern underscores the need for genuine consultation — and for leadership to consider not just operational goals, but the long-term impact on student experience, academic culture, and Tasmania’s creative future.

Section 3: Feedback & Consultation

This section explores whether students felt they had the opportunity to give feedback on the proposed changes, how accessible that process was, and whether they believe their input will be meaningfully considered. These questions are crucial for assessing the integrity of UTAS’s consultation process and the extent to which students have been engaged in decisions affecting their education.

Figure 7: Have You Been Given a Chance to Provide Input or Feedback to UTAS About These Changes?

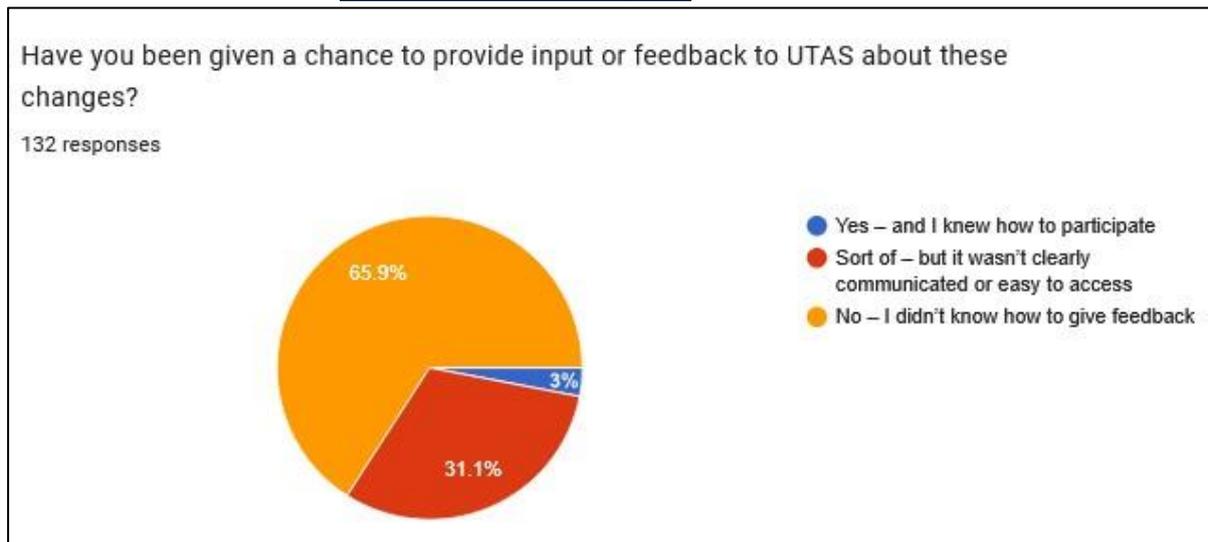


Figure 7: Opportunity to Provide Feedback

Respondents were asked whether they had been given an opportunity to share input or feedback with UTAS about the proposed changes. Response options included yes, no, and partial options such as informal channels or unclear processes.

Interpretation:

A significant portion of respondents indicated they had not been given a clear opportunity to provide feedback. Others selected responses indicating indirect or unclear options, such as informal conversations with senior staff or being encouraged to speak with a TUSA representative. Only a small minority felt they had genuinely been invited to contribute to the decision-making process.

These results highlight a failure to establish transparent, accessible, and inclusive consultation mechanisms. Even if feedback channels technically existed, the fact that most students did not feel able to participate suggests that UTAS has not created a process students recognise as meaningful. This raises serious concerns about whether students have been afforded a fair or informed role in shaping decisions that will directly affect their academic futures.

Figure 8: Do You Believe UTAS Will Genuinely Consider Student Feedback About These Proposed Changes?

Do you believe UTAS will genuinely consider student feedback about these proposed changes?

134 responses

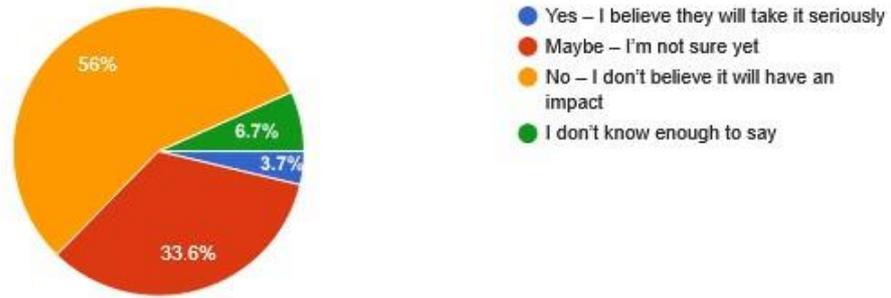


Figure 8: Trust that Student Feedback will be Considered

Respondents were asked whether they believe UTAS will genuinely take student feedback into account when making decisions about the proposed changes. Options included yes, no, maybe, and “I don't know.”

Interpretation:

An overwhelming 56% of respondents (75 out of 134) said they do not believe their feedback will have any impact. A further 33.6% (45 people) said “maybe,” and 6.7% (9 people) said they didn't know enough to say. Only 3.7% (5 people) believed UTAS would take student feedback seriously.

This widespread skepticism reveals a deep crisis of trust between the student body and university leadership. Even where feedback mechanisms technically exist, they are widely seen as tokenistic or ineffectual. The lack of confidence in institutional responsiveness suggests that many students view the consultation process not as a genuine dialogue, but as a performative exercise — one in which outcomes have been pre-decided and student input is symbolic at best.

Section 2: Student Voices — Qualitative Insights

This section presents open-ended responses submitted through the Save UTAS Arts feedback survey. Respondents were given the opportunity to express their thoughts freely — in their own words — about the proposed changes, how they've been communicated, and what the future of arts and humanities at UTAS means to them.

More than 100 responses revealed strong patterns of concern, confusion, and grief, but also powerful expressions of solidarity, hope, and value. Students spoke of the impact these changes could have on their study paths, their sense of identity, and their belief in the university itself.

These qualitative insights deepen the understanding of the survey's quantitative findings, offering a human perspective that numbers alone cannot convey. The quotes selected in this section illustrate key themes and recurring messages voiced by the community.

These thematic interpretations are summaries based on the original quotes, which are included in full in the appendices. While care was taken to accurately reflect participant voices, these summaries are not exhaustive.

Impact of Cuts

Section 2.1: Emotional Impact

Survey Question: “How Do These Changes Make You Feel?”

This open-ended question invited students and community members to express their feelings about the proposed cuts. Responses were overwhelmingly emotional, with dominant themes of fear, anger, betrayal, and disillusionment. Students described the changes as disruptive not only to their studies, but also to their sense of value, purpose, and belonging.

Fear, Anxiety, and Emotional Distress

Many students expressed deep fear and stress about their futures — both academically and personally. The proposed cuts have left them anxious, disoriented, and heartbroken.

"I feel very afraid for my future. Uni is not cheap."

"Nervous, confused and exhausted."

"Scared for the future and the community."

"Stressed, disrespected, upset, distressed. These are just a few key words that summarise how the cuts are making my experience at UTAS feel."

"These changes feel like getting hit by a train out of nowhere."

Loss of Trust in UTAS and Institutional Values

Respondents voiced a strong loss of trust in UTAS leadership. They described the university as acting like a corporation, disregarding students, staff, and its own stated values.

"It makes me feel like UTAS thinks my degree is not as important as other disciplines."

"Disappointed and further disillusioned with UTAS."

"They make me feel as though the uni doesn't care about how students feel and are simply acting as a business."

"Like the leaders at UTAS just don't care and are only motivated by money and power."

"I believe that the lack of transparency from UTAS is abysmal and makes me upset."

Devaluation of the Arts and Humanities

Many responses reflected a deep sense of being devalued — not just as individuals, but as artists, thinkers, and members of a broader creative community. The cuts are seen as cultural erasure.

"Cutting the arts shows where UTAS stands politically... Art is the key to empathy, and without it the world will become a sad, sad place."

"It's a devaluing of my discipline and many others. It's UTAS saying it doesn't care about the arts."

"Honestly, it breaks my heart... My mum has a doctorate in philosophy from UTAS... her entire career wouldn't have been possible if the philosophy department were gutted like it is now."

"Arts is how civilisations have communicated for decades."

"The ambience of the Fine Arts Campus feels like it's internalised these upcoming cuts — the atmosphere is a reflection of the lack of care."

Fear of Personal Academic Disruption

Dozens of respondents described immediate, practical fears — that their degrees could become unfinishable, their subjects might vanish, or beloved staff might disappear.

"I worry that I won't be able to complete my degree."

"I'm worried that many of the classes I intend to take will be cut."

"Having just started my course this year... this makes me feel very unsettled and uncertain."

"All the work I am putting in this year... will be for nothing if the course I want to do is cut."

"It's making me question if I want to go to UTAS anymore for theatre or fine arts."

Anger at the Consultation Process

Students repeatedly described learning about the changes late, or indirectly, and feeling excluded from any opportunity to influence what happens. This generated intense frustration and resentment.

"Primarily surprised that such a huge change is occurring and I only heard about it secondhand through social media."

"Disappointed, the suddenness and sneakiness of the changes anger me."

"Frustrated and ignored."

"Pissed off. The school is understaffed. I don't want my tuition money supporting an institution that doesn't value my degree."

"This decision seems rushed and sudden... it's a very confusing time."

Section 2.2: Educational & Community Impact

Survey Question: *“How could these changes affect your education, community, or future?”*

This question invited respondents to reflect on the practical consequences of the proposed cuts. Responses reveal a deep sense of disruption, concern for personal academic trajectories, and powerful warnings about the broader effect on Tasmania’s arts ecosystem.

Key Themes:

1. Disrupted Study Pathways + Risk of Abandoning UTAS

Summary:

Many students fear their degrees will become unviable, their specialisations won’t run, or postgrad pathways will disappear. Some anticipate having to move interstate, abandon their arts ambitions, or give up on UTAS entirely.

Sample quotes:

“I might have to change/restructure my entire degree, move to a mainland university, or wait until later in life to get my drama qualification.”

“It would mean I wouldn’t be able to study uni in Tasmania... or not go to university and get a higher education.”

“With the cuts to Arts — especially to Criminology and International Relations — I’m now being forced to think about walking away from the degree I’ve built.”

“I may need to move to the mainland for a better arts education... UTAS is doing a massive disservice to the people of Tasmania.”

“I could have to move campus which will impact me enormously.”

2. Emotional and Financial Pressure of Leaving Tasmania

Summary:

A recurring theme is the impossibility — or extreme hardship — of leaving Tasmania. For many, UTAS is the only feasible option, and cuts push students toward unaffordable or unstable alternatives.

Sample quotes:

“If I am not able to get the proper education... I will simply have to leave the state. Affecting my planned out studying years.”

“I am not in a financial position to do so. The cost of living on the mainland is substantially higher... If I move I will be homeless.”

“I will need to move interstate when so much of my passion comes from improving Tasmanian outcomes.”

“Young people will leave the state. Education opportunities will be lost.”

3. Diminished Value of Degree + Graduate Reputation

Summary:

Some respondents worry that even if they *do* finish their degree, it will carry less weight — or reflect poorly — due to course cuts and the university’s declining reputation.

Sample quotes:

“I worry about how this will make my degree look when I graduate.”

“UTAS has already devalued my future by its bean counter approach.”

“This is going to affect how I finish my double degree... this will continue to tank UTAS's reputation.”

“Even if I can [graduate], I won’t be able to engage in a well-rounded education I was planning.”

4. Collapse of Arts Ecosystem in Tasmania

Summary:

Beyond personal impact, students spoke to the broader loss for Tasmania’s cultural life. Cuts were seen as harmful to community vibrancy, artist retention, and Tasmania’s identity as a creative place.

Sample quotes:

“Theatre has always been a massive part of Tas culture... these cuts will destroy future careers and projects in the state.”

“These changes will negatively impact the community by devaluing the arts.”

“This part of the country is known for its arts. Taking the grass roots foundations away will be devastating.”

“Where would the next generation come from without a well-funded, rigorous degree?”

5. Impact on Future Educators

Summary:

Respondents studying teaching or education see these cuts as detrimental not just to them — but to Tasmania’s future teacher workforce.

Sample quotes:

“I am studying teaching... it is so disheartening to see the only university in the state cutting the Arts.”

“I am taking the BA before a Masters of Teaching. These changes will worsen the teaching shortage.”

“I was afforded an amazing opportunity at UTAS... I fear for future students not having a quality education in the Arts.”

Section 2.3: Student Messages to UTAS Leadership

Survey Question: “If you could say one thing directly to UTAS leadership, what would it be?”

This question generated powerful and often emotional responses. The messages reflect a clear pattern of dissatisfaction with the consultation process, disillusionment with UTAS’s direction, and a passionate defence of the value of the arts and humanities. Many respondents also offered direct critiques of leadership culture and expressed anger, confusion, or heartbreak.

*Some responses include language that is emotionally charged or confrontational. This reflects the level of distress and frustration that many students are feeling about the proposed cuts and the way the process has been communicated. **While we do not endorse any form of abuse or personal attack, we have chosen to include unfiltered responses where they illustrate the intensity of sentiment among the student body.***

Key Themes:

1. Listen to Students, Staff, and Community

Respondents repeatedly asked for genuine consultation and meaningful engagement with those affected. There was a strong sense that students have not been heard — and that staff input is being ignored or devalued.

Examples:

- “Listen to your students. Be transparent. Engage clearly. This is not good enough.”
- “You need to be speaking with students and finding out why we want to be here, and then do more of that!”
- “Please listen to the students and people being impacted! They are at the heart of the issue.”
- “Stop treating all of us like we are in the way of your profits.”

2. Poor Consultation and Lack of Transparency

A major theme across responses is frustration at how the proposed changes were communicated — or not communicated. Respondents described the process as rushed, secretive, and disconnected from those it impacts.

Examples:

- “What the hell are you thinking?”
- “Why did you not consult students about these major changes??”
- “How dare you make these decisions behind the backs of the students they'll affect.”
- “The timeline for the current ‘consultation’ process is laughably short.”

3. The Arts and Humanities Matter Deeply

A large number of responses expressed outrage or sorrow at the devaluation of arts disciplines. Respondents argued that the arts are essential to education, culture, democracy, wellbeing, and Tasmania’s identity.

Examples:

- “You’re not just cutting courses — you’re dismantling the soul of the university.”
- “Criminology, International Relations, music, fine arts, languages — these aren’t extras.”
- “Art is instrumental, impactful and necessary.”
- “CUTTING THE ARTS, CUTTING TASMANIA’S CREATIVE INDUSTRY.”

4. Reputation, Recruitment, and Retention Risks

Respondents pointed out that the cuts — and the way they are being managed — damage UTAS’s public image and will harm enrolment in the long term. They emphasised that reputation matters to students, staff, and the broader community.

Examples:

- “Why would a student do an online degree from UTAS instead of Deakin, RMIT, Griffith?”
- “UTAS lurches from crisis to crisis. I have no confidence in the leaders.”
- “You guys are so greedy oh my goodness!! Stop paying the guy in charge so much.”
- “Even if I graduate, I won’t be proud to say I studied at UTAS.”

5. Anger, Pain, and Disbelief

While many respondents stayed measured in tone, a notable portion expressed raw emotion: anger, despair, heartbreak, and rage. These voices should not be dismissed — they point to the depth of community disillusionment and the emotional toll of the process.

Examples:

- “Fuck youuuu”
- “You should be ashamed of what this university has become.”
- “You are not doing what is in your students' and staffs' best interests.”
- “Cut yourselves first.”

Section 3.1: What Students Value at UTAS

Survey Question: "What do you value most about studying at UTAS?"

This section gathers students' open-ended responses to what they most appreciate about studying at UTAS. The responses reveal consistent themes of passionate teaching, community, supportive learning environments, and access to local education. These values represent what students feel is most at risk under the proposed changes.

Theme 1: Passionate and Supportive Teachers

A major theme across responses is deep appreciation for UTAS teaching staff — especially their dedication, care, and commitment to students' learning and wellbeing. Many described their lecturers and tutors as going above and beyond, both academically and personally.

"Some of the teachers at UTAS were incredible; they took so much care and consideration for all of their students not only as a collective but also as individuals."

"The teachers are fabulous. The possibilities for a vibrant creative community that includes the art school are frustratingly close."

"There are teachers working here that are irreplaceable, that have changed hundreds of students' lives in their work."

Theme 2: A Sense of Community

Many respondents spoke of a strong sense of connection — with peers, teachers, and creative collaborators. This sense of community, particularly within arts disciplines, was cited as one of the most meaningful parts of the UTAS experience.

"I value the relationships with my fellow students that I have cultivated. Being in an environment with likeminded individuals who want to create... is the best thing about this department."

"The feelings of community and trust I've had in my classes."

"The community Asher, Jane, Davina and Alex are building in the theatre degree... This place is amazing!"

Theme 3: Access to Local Education

The ability to study close to home — while staying connected to family, community, and employment — was crucial for many students. Several shared that they would not have been able to attend university at all without a local option.

“Having a university close to home has been a game changer. I would not have had the opportunity to study if I was not able to live at home.” “Being able to study in my home state while working.”

“I don’t study there yet but am looking to next year. I want to study at UTAS because it means that I don’t have to move away from my family.”

Theme 4: Inspiring Campus Environment

From studio facilities to shared creative spaces, the physical and cultural environment of campuses — particularly the Arts School and Sandy Bay — were seen as integral to student learning, growth, and identity.

“The environment – the arts school is a fun, collaborative, welcoming space.” “The fine arts lecturers here in Launceston have really had a significant impact on my education... Without them, there are units I feel like I would not have been able to succeed in.”

“The spirit of the Sandy Bay campus... it is already dissipating as the campus is being divided up and disunified.”

Section 4.1: Ideas for the Future

Survey Question: “What do you think is stopping more students from enrolling in Arts & Humanities at UTAS?”

This section asked respondents to reflect on the reasons why more students might not be choosing to study Arts and Humanities at UTAS. The responses were detailed, critical, and overwhelmingly consistent in their themes — pointing to both long-term structural issues and recent decisions that have undermined confidence in these degrees.

1. Reputation and Trust in the University is Low

The most commonly cited issue was a collapse in trust in UTAS itself. Respondents described the university as under-resourced, poorly managed, and visibly disinterested in the arts. This poor reputation is now widely known beyond the campus.

“UTAS already has a bad reputation to arts students. Many people don't want to enrol there because they know not much funding is being put towards these areas.”

“It’s obvious — artists will study art at a school that values the arts. The university has made it abundantly clear to the public that they have no interest in supporting the arts.”

“Uncertainty, lack of confidence in the administration and Vice Chancellor, and the move to the Forestry Building.”

“The word isn’t staying within UTAS, it’s out in the public. UTAS doesn’t care for its students unless those students make it money.”

2. Cuts, Shrinking Options, and Course Instability

Dozens of responses noted that merged majors, disappearing electives, and constant structural changes have left students unsure whether they can complete their degrees — or even start one with confidence.

“Too many units have been cut — why bother?”

“Knowing that UTAS doesn't care about Arts and Humanities. Merging units and cutting staff leading to lower quality education.”

“The uncertainty on whether UTAS will provide a good education, and whether they will be able to complete their degrees without UTAS stripping the arts back.”

“Consolidating units and cutting them makes it harder to get the most out of our educations.”

3. Lack of Promotion and Awareness

Several students said they hadn’t even known Arts degrees were offered — or were misinformed by UTAS reps. A lack of basic promotion and visibility was seen as a major factor.

“Not enough advertising about the subject options that UTAS provides.”

“I was not aware that my major existed until someone told me. There is a massive misconception that the Theatre course has been dropped completely.”

“It’s not in any of UTAS’s advertisements so it’s not being promoted for the uni as a degree they offer.”

“When I went to a uni convention, I talked to a UTAS student rep — they told me that UTAS didn’t offer a theatre or acting course.”

4. Fear of Poor Job Prospects or Lack of Career Pathways

While not unique to UTAS, broader concerns about career outcomes for arts graduates were reinforced by what students saw as UTAS’s failure to link degrees with real-world opportunities.

“People are under the impression that these subjects are 'Mickey Mouse degrees' and have no worthwhile job prospects.”

“Arts and Humanities aren’t degrees that will make you a lot of money... that can be a barrier mentally.”

“Job insecurity... UTAS needs a greater focus on developing employable skills like internships and networking.”

5. Overreliance on Online Learning

Online and hybrid delivery modes were widely criticised. Many described them as isolating, inaccessible, and particularly unsuited to arts-based education — which depends on collaboration, dialogue, and presence.

“Everything is going online... therefore theatre and arts classes are very small and limited.”

“The push for online education, and the lack of enthusiasm shown by the uni for continuing with arts over a very long period of time.”

“Online learning means students don't make connections and feel isolated.”

6. Cost of Study and Living

A significant number of respondents raised concerns about affordability. Tasmania’s low-income levels, combined with rising tuition fees for humanities, make study increasingly inaccessible — especially when courses are being cut at the same time. “Large fees, policy that disincentivises the arts/humanities.”

“The high costs of arts degrees... student welfare is disgustingly low, students cannot reasonably work full time and study.”

“Financial impediments, i.e., too expensive? Cutting of units made my degree difficult to navigate.”

4.2: Survey Question: What would make UTAS a more attractive place to study Arts or Humanities?

In this final qualitative question, students shared their visions for how UTAS could better support and promote Arts and Humanities. Responses reveal not only what's missing, but what's possible — pointing toward solutions that are often simple, obvious, and deeply connected to respect and reinvestment.

1. Investment in Staff, Courses, and Facilities

The strongest recurring theme was a need for **real investment** — financial, strategic, and cultural — in the people and programs that make the Arts work. Students don't just want more money; they want **visible care** for teachers, subjects, and learning environments.

“Don't cut the budget. You need your teachers, you need your funding, and most of all you need to support the department.”

“Better funding. Quality learning just isn't cheap. Some things shouldn't be scrimped on.”

“Top down commitment to and investment in these disciplines. UTAS needs to find its way again.”

“If they actually demonstrated care for the Arts and Humanities.”

“Visible art throughout campuses. Funding and renovation to the art school instead of new buildings.”

2. A Broader Range of Subjects and More Diverse Units

Many students felt their degrees were being **over-consolidated**. They called for greater variety — from specialist topics and technical electives, to full degrees in areas currently limited to minors or individual units.

“More unit choices that cater to broad practices and mediums.”

“We have so many courses that just retract — if we diversify what we learn, more people will be interested.”

“More diverse range of units (such as offering units in textile-based arts, and expanding ceramics into an entire stream).”

“For me I would love to be able to do a full degree and not just a major... I want to know more about theatre and all its aspects.”

3. In-Person Learning and On-Campus Community

There was clear and widespread opposition to excessive online delivery. Students repeatedly expressed a desire for more in-person classes, campus vibrancy, and meaningful face-to-face connection with peers and staff.

“More in-person classes, better student experience... high levels of engagement and opportunity.”

“Less online classes and more in-person classes available across all campuses.”

“The few times I’ve been on [Sandy Bay] campus, the sense of community I felt was astronomical... the thought of that being stripped away is terrifying.”

“Online learning means that students don't make connections and feel isolated.”

4. Stronger Support for Teachers and Existing Staff

Students were deeply concerned about how current staff are being treated. They want UTAS to value, retain, and empower the passionate educators who are keeping Arts and Humanities alive.

“More teachers that care about their field... and the desire by the higher ups to hire new graduates.”

“Letting the people who know make decisions. More autonomy for the school... happy staff on the ground to answer questions.”

“Employing more staff who are qualified and passionate artists in their respective mediums.”

5. A Cultural Shift: Value the Arts Publicly and Internally

There is a strong desire for UTAS to reclaim a proud, creative identity. Students want to see Arts and Humanities treated as a central, respected part of the university — in public messaging and internal decisions alike.

“Arts was the heart of UTAS not so long ago, and it can get back there with just a little bit more effort and consultation.”

“If UTAS showed that they value these students just as much as those undertaking medicine or science...”

“Use the history, resources, stories and opportunities to our advantage, localise and diversify the humanities and arts classes...”

“Tasmania is a place of art... UTAS should lean into that.”

6. Marketing, Awareness, and Promotion

Many respondents believed that the arts at UTAS are hidden or downplayed in public communication. Stronger marketing, open day showcases, and student-led promotion could help correct false perceptions and boost enrolments.

“More advertising.”

“Promote more. While other fields have more than enough promotion... arts subjects are pushed aside.”

“Get students to share what we love about this place on social media so the world can see us.”

“UTAS would get more students if they offered more arts opportunities... four of my friends moved interstate due to the lack of options.”

7. Industry Links and Career Pathways

Though fewer in number, several respondents highlighted the need for clearer connections between study and employment. They called for internships, residencies, mentorships, and better promotion of career outcomes.

“Art residencies! Diversity! Scholarships!”

“Interaction with industry and opportunities for students to gain employability.”

“Interesting units that have direct links with workplaces... to help students feel their course can help them further in life.”

“More graduate positions and financial support.”

Section 5: Ethical Interpretation — Are UTAS’s Actions Aligned with Their Stated Values?

The University of Tasmania presents itself as an institution guided by strong moral and ethical commitments. On its public website, UTAS affirms the importance of fairness, respect, inclusion, and principled decision-making.

Below, we present a selection of these official commitments — alongside evidence from student survey data suggesting that UTAS is not currently living up to these values in its approach to Arts and Humanities cuts.

UTAS states:

“We subscribe to the fundamental values of honesty, integrity, responsibility, trust and trustworthiness, respect and self-respect, and fairness and justice that act as the basis for collective principled action.”

Source: <https://www.utas.edu.au/about/values>

But students report:

- “I believe that the lack of transparency from UTAS is abysmal and makes me upset.”
- “The timeline for the current ‘consultation’ process is laughably short.”
- “How dare you make these decisions behind the backs of the students they’ll affect.” • “There should have been clear communication and an opportunity to give or withhold support.”

These comments reflect serious concerns about honesty, fairness, and transparency in decision-making — contradicting UTAS’s stated ethical framework.

UTAS states:

“In supporting the contribution and well-being of all, we create a welcoming, caring and inclusive environment.”

Source: <https://www.utas.edu.au/about/values>

But students report:

- “I feel very afraid for my future. Uni is not cheap.”
- “Stressed, disrespected, upset, distressed.”
- “It’s making me question if I want to go to UTAS anymore.”
- “Cooked. It’s not only going to have immediate consequences for arts in Tasmania, but the future of arts. There’s no coming back from this.”

Rather than feeling cared for and supported, many students describe UTAS as unsafe, unwelcoming, and emotionally harmful.

UTAS states:

“We enable and participate in authentic conversations that allow us to be agents of change and transformation.”

Source: <https://www.utas.edu.au/about/values>

But students report:

- “Primarily surprised that such a huge change is occurring and I only heard about it secondhand through social media.”
- “This decision seems rushed and sudden. I only became aware of it in late week 12.” • “Even if the proposed changes were entirely reasonable... there should have been clear communication and an opportunity to give or withhold support.”
- “The process and lack of lengthy, proper consultation... is unfair and shows a lack of care for staff and student wellbeing

The consultation process has been widely perceived as inauthentic, rushed, and inaccessible — denying students a meaningful voice in transformative decisions.

UTAS states:

“We value a community that supports each of us to collaborate and to be the best we can be, flourishing both individually and collectively. Being supported to question and reflect gives us the freedom to challenge ourselves and each other. **It reminds us that listening to, engaging with and involving others are vital for our success.**

Source: <https://www.utas.edu.au/about/values>

But students report:

- “The teaching staff in the arts department are underpaid, overworked and undervalued but they still manage to put their entire being into their work.”
- “Over the course of my degree I have been told that Gender Studies will probably be phased out (I began in 2020)”
- “It makes me feel like UTAS thinks my degree is not as important as other disciplines.” • “Please listen to the students and people being impacted! They are at the heart of the issue.”

UTAS states:

“The University of Tasmania is committed to fostering an inclusive culture which promotes equality, values diversity and maintains a working, learning and social environment in which the rights and dignity of all its staff and students are respected.”

Source: <https://www.utas.edu.au/equity-diversity>

But students report:

- “...limiting the resources will make it even harder for me as a disabled student to get the support from my teachers I need.”
- “...my partner who is a trans man and is living in a housing situation, which affects his mental health every day, and but also paying for gender affirming surgery but only under the understanding that he does university in Tasmania, ... if utas cuts their courses, he will be stuck with an impossible decision to make.”

These changes disproportionately impact students who already face structural barriers — contradicting UTAS’s commitment to equity and inclusion.

Conclusion

The University of Tasmania publicly affirms its commitment to integrity, care, transparency, and inclusion. Yet the responses gathered through this survey reveal a sharp disconnect between these values and students’ lived experience of the proposed cuts to Arts and Humanities.

Students describe feeling blindsided, disrespected, and excluded from decisions that will profoundly affect their academic futures. Many express fear, anger, and heartbreak — not just for their own studies, but for what these changes signal about the university’s priorities and direction.

When a university says it values open dialogue, but students find out about major changes through Instagram and rumours, something is broken. When it claims to uphold fairness and inclusion, but disproportionately harms marginalised students and disregards their input, those values ring hollow.

This isn’t just poor communication. It’s a failure of ethical leadership.

If UTAS wishes to be seen as a values-driven institution, it must act accordingly — by honouring its commitments, genuinely engaging with students and staff, and ensuring that decisions reflect the dignity and wellbeing of its entire community. Without this, trust cannot be rebuilt.

Appendix A: Full Qualitative Survey Responses

(Grouped by Question)

How do these proposed changes make you feel, in your own words?

I feel very afraid for my future. Uni is not cheap.

I'm angered by how UTAS are claiming these changes are needed to attract more students, but making already bare bones courses even smaller is never going to attract more people. UTAS is already seen as many peoples last option for most courses, if they want to be taken seriously, they have to invest in their degrees.

I worry that I won't be able to complete my degree. I feel like these changes are sending a message to me and other humanities/theatre students that our education isn't important.

The proposed changes are very frustrating, because all my lecturers and tutors in history have been extremely supportive, knowledgeable and passionate about their subjects and UTAS. This has led me to have an amazing experience in my undergrad, but I am disappointed that many of their units will be cut and that some of them might even lose their jobs. This will greatly diminish the quality of the BA program and is unfair on both staff and students.

As a 1st yeat student, these changes make me feel really worried about the future of my ajd my peer's access education and tge future of my degree.

I have friends, and family that have done the arts through UTAS and it makes me sick to my stomach to know that UTAS actually doesn't give a shit about these people and their passions. It was hard enough last year watching my friends struggle when one single staff member was away sick - it would always throw their assessments into chaos. UTAS can afford to cut staff but the students can't. If people want to peruse an arts degree and still

keep a sense of dignity and respect - they study elsewhere. UTAS is a laughing stock of the country when I speak to my mainland friends.

I feel like the arts are not valued enough or taken seriously in society at large, and utas is enabling this point of view. It makes me feel like utas thinks my degree is not as important as other disciplines. I attend this uni because it is the only option I have, and im disappointed that they don't seem to value their students experiences.

I'm worried about my future at UTAS, I'm spending so much money on a university which has shown again and again that it doesn't respect the students, staff, or wider Tasmanian community. I've considered transferring to another university in hopes of receiving more respect in the university community.

I left UTAS in 2019 before finishing my degree due to a number of issues within the university and how it conducted the fine arts campus. It's incredibly depressing to hear about the cuts but also not surprising in the slightest from past experiences. It's disheartening for a uni in a place like Tasmania to disregard the arts so easily, especially when the general consensus of people who haven't studied there think it's one of the top places to go to study art.

I am so very upset for current students - compared to courses that I could take in the early 2000s, there is simply nothing left. I skipped 1st year Japanese and was able to study in the advanced track. At that time, there were also courses in Conversation, Japanese Film, and Professional Interpreting, and Reading Japanese Literature

It's just stupid. Media has already moved three times during my degree, and this will make a fourth. Theres no sense to it - it will only harm the media school and it genuinely has no good reason behind it. Id love to respond more academically but its so mind numbingly preposterous, unfounded, and harming to the cohort and degree that it's difficult to find any sort of real reason to retort against

It makes me feel quite anxious - the arts are extremely important to me both personally and in my studies, so I worry about the affect the changes could have on the rest of my studies.

Worried about the future for Tasmanian kids. Frustrated at an arrogant and profit driven university executive. Sad that the immense possibilities for a thriving creative community in Tasmania are being stifled and that our kids are having their options reduced. Angry that the University has allowed and amplified the toxic culture that has been allowed to destroy the lives of so many of their staff.

Discouraged. It feels as though the area I am passionate about and want to dedicate myself to isn't considered important enough to higher ups.

I feel like this is a very short-sighted move being made by UTAS. Considering that UTAS promotes itself on being a leader in sustainability it seems to have forgotten the vital and incredibly important role that the Arts play in communicating issues around environmental and social sustainability.

I am concerned that all the work I am putting in this year to get into my course will be for nothing if the course I want to do is cut

Nervous, confused and exhausted. UTAS wants to encourage students to stay in Tasmania and attend their university but are actively pushing students to pursue mainland university education by further cutting more options for Tasmanians who already feel disadvantaged due to lack of options.

I'm concerned, these proposed changes will be detrimental to Arts students

Like the leaders at utas just don't care and are only motivated by money and power

I'm sad, I'm currently in Tafe at the UTAS campus hence not being quite affected, I am so excited to start University next year I love this campus and I want to do art, limiting the resources will make it even harder for me as a disabled student to get the support from my teachers I need.

Frustrated and confused

I am so upset that UTAS is devaluing the arts, Tasmania used to be such a thriving place for artists and the humanities but now UTAS wants to drop it like a hot pie. Over the course of my degree I have been told that Gender Studies will probably be phased out (I began in 2020) and so I am not surprised, but it is still so disheartening.

Extremely disheartened- not only does it feel like interstate study might be essential to properly experience the degree i want to persue, but it feels that UTAS doesn't equate worth to the creative sphere, meaning that the future of arts in tasmania is at risk

Frustrated and disappointed with the university; cheated by UTAS

Really angry. UTAS is treating its staff and students like cash cows. I don't believe the people making these decisions have any appreciation for the arts, humanities or theatre.

Disappointed, the suddenness and sneakiness of the changes anger me

Worried for my current study and how it will affect the completion of my degree

Angry and upset. As a student studying geology, I know all too well what it feels like to have units and funding cut. What makes me upset about these changes is the scale of the arts cuts. This affects every area, shutting down entire disciplines for what feels like greed. The

fact that this has been done silently shows that UTAS knows what it is doing is wrong, but following through anyways.

Primarily surprised that such a huge change is occurring and I only heard about it secondhand through social media. It's hard to know how to feel about the changes because I've been given so little information about them I don't like it :(I WANNA STUDY GERMAN!!

Worried for the future of Tasmania. We are a small state with only 1 University, and moving interstate to pursue tertiary education is becoming less and less accessible/ affordable for the average person. UTAS cutting out courses, shrinking down humanities, and making cuts for the sake of profit it honestly so disappointing

It's a devaluing of my discipline and many others. It's UTAS saying it doesn't care about the arts.

Saddened for the theatre community

Frustrated but also not surprised that UTAS is putting short term profits above the student experience and the future of Arts in Tasmania.

I am concerned for the future of arts and humanities in Tasmania

They make me feel scared about UTAS's future, anxious about what UTAS will be like in the future and angry about the cuts.

Cooked. It's not only going to have immediate consequences for arts in Tasmania, but the future of arts. There's no coming back from this.

Annoyed, they don't have a good track record of listening to students Worried

and disrespected.

Having just started my course this year and still finding my way into uni life, this makes me feel very unsettled & uncertain as to whether I will have any continuity of learning g

Like humanities and the Arts is not important - I am a humanities graduate from an international university so it makes me sad and angry

Stressed, disrespected, upset, distressed. These are just a few key words that summerise how the cuts are making my experience at UTAS feel.

The cuts to the Arts department proposed by UTAS would leave a devastating effect on the student body as a whole. The Arts are such an important part of human interaction and the human mind, especially in a place like Tasmania a very creative focussed state.

In the moment when the climate crisis worsens, fascist tendencies threaten the very fabric of our social world, and AI perpetuates hegemonic ideologies under the guise of 'objectivity', we must realise the value of critical thinking and post-positivist epistemologies. Sociology, Humanities, Creative Arts and Media, are not only important to re-imagine human and non-human relationships but are at the core of social progress. It's bizzare to think that at one hand, the University wants to de-colonise the curriculum, and at the other hand, it seems to be puncturing the very heart of the disciplines that encourage de-colonial thinking. The changes make me feel incredibly disheartened and disappointed, as the University seems to have given up on the moral obligation it has to drive social change in pursuit of a very colonial and capitalist economic-profit oriented business model.

Very frustrated and disappointed, I feel as though my future and potential prospects are being negatively impacted

I believe that the lack of transparency from Utas is abysmal and make me upset

Sad and horrified at the loss to the Tasmanian community. We are known as a creative place, so to not invest in learning around these disciplines is awful.

Scared for the future of the arts

Heartbroken, it is truly disgusting to cut the arts. Cutting the arts shows where UTAS stands politically, which has great power over the students. Arts is how civilisations have communicated for decades. It is how we can understand indigenous history. Art is the key to empathy, and without the world will become a sad, sad place.

It stresses me out. Ive grown up with a love of economic anxiety, and the thought of potentially having to move to a different state and have to sustain a life for myself without any financial support from my family terrifies me. And the fact the University has the audacity to say they care about there students and the community its serving, yet have the audacity to cut courses that are so incredibly important, especially in our political climate when free thinking and self expression is being shut down and shunned, is quite frankly disgusting and infuriating and contradicts all that the supposedly stand for. And the teachers that are going to leave without jobs, and unable to be re-employed anywhere in Tasmania at that same level is fowl. Because once again, the people the claim to care and look after, are the same people they are willing to leave without jobs leaving them in potentially financial restricting situation is absolutely heinous and cruel. And my partner who is a trans man and is living in a housing situation, which affects his mental health every day, and but also paying for gender affirming surgery but only under the understanding that he does university in Tasmania, so even if he wants do a fine arts university course on the mainland he cant without the potential for losing access to his surgery. So if utas cuts their courses, he will be

stuck with an impossible decision to make. And it worries me that if he is stuck here, and can't get his surgery his mental health will decline.

Pissed.

Frustrated and ignored

Honestly it breaks my heart. My mum has a doctorate in philosophy from UTAS, she worked from the sandy bay building for years, her entire career wouldn't have been possible if the philosophy department were to have been gutted like it is now.

they make me feel as though the uni doesn't care about how students feel and are simply acting as a business rather than as a university. they don't seem to care about these courses despite their significance within the greater community.

pretty angry and betrayed

I think that the proposed cuts will be detrimental to UTAS as a whole and this could set a precedent for future cuts to other areas

It makes me feel that UTAS has given up on society. Arts is such an integral part of our world and to take it away will mean less freedom for Tasmanians who can't move states.

Dissatisfied and concerned, as Tasmania's art scene is finally starting to grow close to its former state before the pandemic, UTAS is choosing to potentially push all that progress back again on a regional scale, as well as taking away opportunities from future students.

I feel very disappointed in the University by the proposed changes. Arts disciplines are very important to us in Tasmania, from the indigenous peoples who walked the land before us, to

the festivals and performances that bring us all together as one. What UTAS is attempting to do is kill the Tasmanian arts scene, a vibrant scene full of visionaries that were set back by COVID, but are attempting to bring the arts in our state back into importance.

Scared for the future and the community It's

a terrible shame to cut the arts!

Worried for the future of not just academic and students/staff but also for how we as a society understand the world around us

It makes me quite annoyed, angry and frustrated as UTAS tends to make decisions as a "business" rather than a learning institution

I'm worried that many of the classes I intend to take will be cut, I'm also worried for some of my favourite tutors and lecturers losing their jobs

I feel it would be a shame to let go of the arts, and the potential of all the people who wish to study it.

Saddened for all people in these crucial courses, my heart goes out to them

This changes make me feel scared for students who want to study the arts in Tasmania. They will force more people out of the state.

Disappointed

I feel appalled that this is even a decision UTAS is considering. The Arts and Humanities are extremely important units we need for everyday life, we are taught from a young age that

music, languages etc help us with cognitive ability. UTAS themselves even input this into certain units. I feel heartbroken for the students who are stressed over this, and I hope that something is done well before semester 2 starts.

Disappointed and further disillusioned with UTAS

The changes reflect a priority of profit over education, and a top down model of decision making. Universities should be beacons of adult consultation and reasoned discourse - not secretive cuts without a real ability to discuss the issues.

It's making me question if I want to go to UTAS anymore for theatre or fine arts because they don't sound like they care about it in the slightest

As apart of a degree which was discontinued the year after I joined- I already have experience with cuts to humanities and language- it makes me so angry utas is doing this to other students and we- who are paying an exhorbarent amount of money to get quality education, don't get to have a say in it at all- teachers either.

I'm very upset about them. It's a corporate response to tertiary education. It has nothing to do with the value of education. I also think it's short sighted. I understand numbers have shrunk. I was enrolled during COVID. I have watched the shrinkage and the cutting of courses, the amalgamating of disciplines, the attempts to reduce costs through forcing cross discipline units. This has all exacerbated the loss in numbers. The more you diminish student experience the less attractive the course is to students- it's obvious. What Visual Arts needs is an injection of funds to get things back to a self-sustaining level. Seek a CBD building and invest in the students who are here, the academics who are holding on by only a thread.

That fine arts isn't valued.

Makes me feel scared for my future and the future of the arts in Tasmania.

Pissed off. The school is understaffed. I don't want my tuition money supporting an institution that doesn't value my degree or the faculty/staff.

Already, the ambience of the Fine Arts Campus feels like it's internalised these upcoming cuts - the atmosphere is a reflection of the lack of care and value put on and into the arts.

Disappointed, frustrated, angry

when I heard about declining student enrolments, I wasn't particularly surprised due to my own negative experiences of studying at UTAS. However, I believe that UTAS should strongly reconsider what they could do about reduced funds instead of cutting down staff, which cuts down on quality of education. They did this to student accommodation in terms of funding and removing valuable staff members and it affected the student life experience by a lot, with much fewer events and the people that made us feel taken care of were gone. It doesn't make sense that the university spends millions of dollars on real estate projects while detracting away from quality student experiences and education which matters the most in attracting students to enrol and want to come to university, to gain the most out of university life after paying so much to come here.

Depressed honestly, I feel like UTAS is letting arts fall to keep their "better degrees" stable financially

I've taken the biggest risk leaving a high paying government job to undertake this degree and if the proposed changes are effected it will turn my life upside down. I'll most likely need to leave Tasmania to pursue another university or turn back to an unfulfilling career.

These changes make me feel as though UTAS do not value the arts.

Despondent. UTAS leadership has a history of not listening to student. As a business they'll squeeze their money out of new victims in a handful of years when the current students

with issues graduate. I believe in making voices heard but there has never been an effective system to be heard or respected as staff or student at utas.

I actually despair at the deconstruction of the Utas Arts programs

Devastated that yet another UTAS cut will affect the education opportunities for young Tasmanians. Decisions are being made by people who only care about finance and budgets, not about the value of offering broad educational opportunities and the importance of this for our future.

I am concerned about the future of my degree and the units required to complete it.

Students

Very disappointed, zarts is a great all round degree, providing a basis for further studies.

These changes feel like getting hit by a train out of nowhere to be honest. For the entirety of my undergrad, the Humanities seemed to have been struggling to put together good courses. A cut now, especially as out of nowhere as it seems to be, just feels like a step in the wrong direction.

When I enrolled in my double degree — Law and Arts — I didn't see them as two separate worlds. I chose Criminology and International Relations because I believe law doesn't exist in a vacuum. It's shaped by society, by power, by politics, by people. The Arts side of my degree isn't an "extra." It's what gives my legal studies meaning. It's where I've learned to ask harder questions, to think critically about justice, to understand the systems that impact the lives of the people I want to help. Criminology has opened my eyes to the realities behind crime — the inequality, the trauma, the systemic failures. International Relations has shown me how power moves between countries, how law can be a tool of justice or oppression depending on who wields it. Now, with the Arts faculty being cut, it feels like everything I've

worked for is being devalued. Lecturers who inspired me are losing their jobs. Subjects I planned my degree around may not run. And I'm left scrambling, unsure if I'll be able to finish the majors I chose with purpose and passion. But more than the logistical disruption, it's the message behind these cuts that stings the most. It feels like the university is telling me — and all of us in Arts — that what we study doesn't matter. That asking "why" and "how" isn't as important as just knowing "what." I came to university to become a better thinker, a better advocate, a more informed human being. To be told that the parts of my education that push me to think critically and compassionately are being stripped away is heartbreaking. These cuts don't just affect me — they affect the future of education. They tell students that the humanities are expendable, that understanding systems and societies isn't "worth it." But how can we build a just legal system without understanding the people it serves? How can we shape better laws without examining the structures that created injustice in the first place? I'm proud to study Law and Arts. I'm proud to be part of a tradition that values knowledge, context, and complexity. And I'm devastated to see that tradition being dismantled, piece by piece. This isn't just about courses. It's about the kind of future we're being allowed to imagine — and whether there will be space for empathy, nuance, and critical thought in it.

This decision seems rushed and sudden. I only became aware of it in late week 12 of Semester 1, and with proposed changes to happen during the semester break the final decision seems to have an immediate impact. While I don't know enough as a first year I don't like the idea that people's degrees in the arts are being impacted maybe first year into a long 3+ year degree. With all the changes happening and not knowing if it's specifically affecting courses I'm taking it's a very confusing time.

Additional Responses (June 6–17):

I feel saddened that people would want to cut the arts.

Worried about areas that I was looking to study in the future

Disappointed at how short sighted this is, i feel like its a step backwards for Tasmania

Will be a huge loss to the community as a whole

I feel disappointed. I took German 1A as an elective last year and I really enjoyed it. Billy is a great teacher and it's such a shame for German to be discontinued.

Like people only care about saving money and not about the arts. This feels like a classic case of placing capitalism and consumerism over human creativity and expression of emotion.

I am very concerned about the marginalization of the arts and cost increases to courses/subjects. My practice is cross disciplinary and arts informs and generates my applied science degree.

Disappointed

Extremely disappointed

It makes me feel upset and frustrated.

It makes me frustrated. While I can understand that changes need to be made, I don't think this is the right way to go about it. It's also sad, hearing from friends that their course may be cut and seeing them concerned about their future, hearing about how passionate lecturers may have their roles dropped. It's all very confusing, and like UTAS is not truly listening.

Disappointed

Angry

Frustrated and disappointed

I'm afraid for my future. I do not have the financial resources to move interstate to receive education in Fine Arts. I am unsure of what my future will be like if the arts continue to be cut and I stay at UTAS.

Terrified for the state of higher education in Tasmania.

Worried I won't be able to study theatre and arts when I'm at utas

Confused, it's a topic a lot of students know about but no one can really fathom why they're happening the way they are.

Very angry and disappointed

Incredibly disheartened

Disappointed but not surprised

Absolutely devastated. Arts is what I usually think of when thinking about things to study at UTAS it was one of the main points of staying local for Uni since it's been presented as well supported and funded but the changes have destroyed the hope I have that UTAS will be a worth while university for any courses if they can just cut it with no care

Yes another step in the gutting of Utas as an educational facility providing choice to Tasmanians and simply treating it as a business.

Forcing people into corners where they can no longer create or think in peace

Upset

It makes me feel like UTAS doesn't care about the hard work that Arts and Humanities students put into our degrees, it makes me disappointed that once again the Arts is

considered lesser than other areas. Not only that but it makes me angry that they've left not only students but staff themselves in the dark about who is going to be affected, staff don't know if they're going to lose their job or not.

Just typical of the world right now, ignoring what's best for the majority in favour of what's best for the wealthy few

Nervous about completing my degree

The proposed changes, and proposing them so quietly me feel like UTAS does not care at all about its students, staff, or the wider community of Tasmania. UTAS has become primarily a business, actual education and standing for their values is not something that UTAS is making an effort to do.

Like the uni doesn't value education or the arts

How could these changes affect your education, community, or future?

As someone heavily involved in community theatre, I know how strong community theatre is in Launceston. However, many talented performers and production team members eventually leave to study on the mainland because UTAS doesn't offer what they need, especially in the arts. If UTAS want to attract more exceptionally talented students, they need to improve their courses, not take away from them:

I need to complete a theatre specialisation as part of my Masters of Teach, and this puts that at risk. If the cuts result in the theatre department being cut, I might have to change/restructure my entire degree, move to a mainland university, or wait until later in life to get my drama qualification, which would stunt my career.

I'm lucky it is my last semester in my Bachelor of Arts, but I feel for the other students who will have less units to choose from due to the cuts meaning they can't study what they want or need to study.

I am taking the BA as before a masters of teaching. I am worried these changes will worsen the teaching shortage here as prospective teachers will study and work interstate. There are many other impacts but this is what first comes to mind in my situation.

When the arts aren't taken seriously, we are losing out on a massive part of our culture. I fear for how these cuts will prevent people from reaching their fullest potential and achieving their dreams, but also the second hand impact that will be felt by the community.

I am studying teaching, specifically to be a secondary history teacher and it is so disheartening to see the only university in the state to be cutting the Arts in general.

All facets of art are incredibly important within community and culture, and when you live somewhere that has such a deep love for the arts it makes no sense to send future students to the mainland.

Current Japanese graduates are never going to reach the level of their Group of 8 peers with the current paltry offerings without spending more money on travel or additional private study

It will cause the Media school - again - to have to restart, flounder around with updating computers that support us, finding space to work, when we JUST came to a campus that supported us, fit us, and felt like a good place for us to be. Across the board a move to humanities will disadvantage media students and the degree.

I feel the arts are very important to Tasmania, so these changes bring the notion that the arts are not as important as other areas of study. Many people already leave Tasmania for their studies, there is no reason to denote the worth of studying in the arts in Tasmania any further. However, if things continue to change in the ways that they are proposing, I would certainly consider leaving Tasmania to continue my studies.

My family and I moved here, in part, for the art department at UTAS and have seen it deteriorate, with overworked and under valued staff and continual cost cutting and upheaval. More changes that continue to undermine the department might mean I look elsewhere to continue my studies. This might mean leaving the state.

I think the scariest part is that I don't know. I am about to finish my Bachelors and would love to further my studies with a Masters but don't even know if it will be possible.

I was hoping to go onto post grad study after completing my undergraduate degree. Now it's looking more and more likely that the areas it was wanting to study within will no longer exist at UTAS. I have already have already experience having my entire degree as a media student changed and felt pushed aside with my classes moved into the Hedburg which is an entirely unwelcoming space for student. I would love the stay at UTAS as the teaching staff are incredible but it very much feels like UTAS administration does value me or student like me. Moving interstate may be my only option.

It would mean I wouldn't be able to study uni in Tasmania, which will mean I either have to move to the mainland and get saddled with a large debt to afford to live away from home or not go to university and get a higher education

I study Philosophy and English as my electives, if I can no longer study these art courses as my electives, I would enjoy my university education considerably less.

I feel that these changes will limit my options and opportunities

Tasmania only has one university so the choices available to students have a profound impact on the state.

I worry I won't be able to attend UTAS next year how I've planned, which would change my entire life's plan for years to come.

Uncertainty about my degree's worth and FOMO for loss of staff

I worry about how this will make my degree look when I graduate, it may have less standing because UTAS doesn't see my field as important.

The changes proposed mean that me and other prospective UTAS students are having to consider a flawed education in our home state or travelling interstate - just to properly experience the degrees we want to pursue

I don't think the cuts will help UTAS's enrolment issues, I think less people will enrol if the cuts go ahead. Less people in Tasmania will have the opportunity to study the arts and it's only going to have negative consequences.

I would have to stop studying at UTAs. Whether or not they teach the course out, from a moral perspective I cannot see myself wanting to continue to give money to an institution that treats its staff and students so poorly, and has so little regard for the arts. The community would be affected because it would miss out on the amazing art I can make - I

would still make it, but it would take me quite a while to emotionally pick myself up and rebuild a support network again after I left utas, I would lose community.

Potentially won't be able to finish my degree and even if I can I won't be able to engage in a well rounded education I was planning. I also may not be able to start a second degree I was aiming to do

I'm not sure and that worries me

I started in arts before moving to a bachelor of science, but I have continued to do electives from the arts, including Indonesian. As well as my own academic career, this greatly affects many of my friends, who may not even be able to complete their studies if these changes go through.

They're unlikely to affect me directly, but they don't have to affect me to be concerning

They don't really but i still dont like it

UTAS is going to deter people from studying at the uni, and we are going to end up with higher rates of unemployment, less educated individuals, disengaged young adults etc. These cuts will be detrimental for the community

As a PhD student, one of the things I had relied on for both additional income and resume building was casual academic opportunities at UTAS. I know feel that this will be impossible to across in my area and I feel like further employment at UTAS at the completion of my PhD is off the table so I fear I will have to move interstate when so much of my passion comes from improving Tasmanian outcomes and supporting the Tasmanian community.

Theatre has always been a massive part of Tas culture. It is a form of self expression and is so important to many Tasmanians

For me studying Media and Comms it's already a very condensed degree, without a major and without a lot of practical learning experiences it's difficult to latch onto or pursue something fully, combining it with humanities disciplines such as social sciences could make this more of the case, making the degree less and less relevant to a student's career path, providing less practical skills in things such as film making, causing less enrollments in an already small degree, effecting an already struggling industry in the state. I think such changes and stripping of the Arts (an already struggling, underfunded industry in Tasmania) will destroy future careers and projects in the state. It would prompt more people to study and work interstate slowly diminishing Tasmania's Art culture with less and less people and less and less funding. The cuts made to Tourism in the proposed changes seem similarly short sighted as it's an industry our state thrives on and depends upon for revenue.

If the course is taken away - i have no opportunity to study the arts

These changes will negatively impact the community by devaluing the arts. Not to mention these cuts will likely lead to more cuts.

I see the future of arts crumbling with these cuts.

My diploma could triple on length

The changes to languages will greatly affect my willingness to continue study at UTAS and I may seek mainland study options.

I don't know specifically other than further loss of morale for the staff affected who will lose valued colleagues & whose workloads will increase

utas needs to be making upgrades to its arts, not cuts. i moved interstate because the university was just not cutting it as an education institution, and i know many others who have done the same. these cuts will only force more people interstate.

Loss of humanities/arts in our population has direct implications for thoughtful planning, social cohesiveness and wellbeing. If cut they will usher in negative societal changes.

I feel like purely because I am a Fine Arts student I don't get a fair chance at a good education.

I wouldn't be able to study some of the courses I wish to enrol in after leaving college.

The changes are not only detrimental to the students, but to the community. We are not only losing education, we are losing on world class research, and technical skills related to production and fine art.

It would greatly minimise the opportunities for me to pursue a degree in areas of interest, and people who I know are at risk of being unable to finish their degree

I could have to move campus which will impact me enormously

It would cripple the arts community. Where would the next generation come from without a well funded rigorous degree?

Detrimentially

It will affect the possibility of me being able to stay in my house, in my state with my family. If I am not able to get the proper education from the only available university in Tasmania I will simply have to leave the state. Affecting my planned out studying years.

I want to go to university to get a degree in theatre, but if utas cuts their theatre course here, I will need to move up to the mainland. I am not in a financial position to do so. The cost of living on the main land is substantially higher than in Tasmania, and there is no guarantee that I can get a job anywhere in the mainland so even if I wanted to, there is no certainty I can sustain a life for myself there. All of my family lives here and they are willing to house me, but I move I will be homeless, because I can not afford to live in university accommodation and pay for food and all other costs.

Limited choice and opportunity for future generations.

Future opportunities

My partner is studying in humanities and philosophy, if he wants to continue his degree we'd have to move states, and it's not a good sign for the fine arts either. With the way this is going we'll be the ones fully cut next.

if my units or courses are cut or have their funding refunded I feel as though my education may not be worth the price I am paying and may consider doing online mainland uni.

can't do the courses I'm passionate about

I'm a law student but most of my friends are doing arts subjects and I would hate for them to have to move elsewhere to follow their passions or to do a degree they aren't enthusiastic about

They don't directly impact me personally but they will heavily affect those of my friends and other peers. It will most likely mean one of my closest friends will have to move to mainland to get a quality education in theatre.

Could take away the opportunity for creatives to upskills and explore their interests, stifling the future of the arts broadly within Tasmania

These may not affect my education, but the proposed cuts is affect my fellow students. They are unsure of what they have to do next year, will they even be able to finish their degree? Will they have to move to Launceston? Will they have to pursue their education at an interstate establishment? This potential exile of budding Tasmanian creatives could doom our artistic scene for years to come.

It reduces my access to education which prevents proper understanding of the world around us meaning we cannot actually engage in politics and media, allowing for a community without analysis and skills to protect ourselves from government/corporations/workplaces

The arts are a vital part of everyday human life - to cut them is to eradicate culture and connection

They will make it more difficult to learn in my degree if staff and funding are removed.

These changes mean that I will be able to get my degree, but with way less diversity in courses and themes than I had originally planned which graduates from other universities will have

I'm worried that if humanities classes and staff are cut it will greatly impact future students as well as current, humanities and other social sciences and arts degrees are so important for communities to function.

If the budget money is truly investment wisely elsewhere then I suppose it could be acceptable. However if not, then these changes would directly impact the futures of many young and talented students.

I am an alumna so they will not affect me directly.

Negatively

As a student who is finishing their bachelors in Psychology, and wishing to go on to complete masters of teaching in the english and theatre area, it makes me sad about what might be ahead

Detrimentially - the arts are a requirement for the proper functioning of our society, and UTAS is casting them aside.

I have checked out of UTAS to be honest, doing the bare minimum. I recommend other prospective students to choose an alternative institution as all the elements that make UTAS great are being dismantled.

I makes me not want to go to UTAS. I feel like If I lose the option for the arts program here I might not go to Uni in general there's nothing else id want to study.

To remove languages is to disrupt cross cultural communication and connections- diplomacy relies on translators and connections. Beyond that arts are so important, to cut arts and humanities is to stem creativity and possibilities for future students to take part in creating a better future

I think already, the art school's reputation has been diminished. This impacts my future as art very much requires reputation. I need to put in a CV when I apply for a show, a grant or a residency. UTAS has already devalued my future by its bean counter approach.

My future careers would be at risk as a college student going into the world with my only interest being in the arts

Further Post graduate study.

These changes make me feel that I may need to move to the mainland for a better arts education, and I feel that by cutting the arts Tasmania will just continue to lose all its creatives to the mainland. I feel that in the day and age the arts are crucial to thinking critically, and utas is doing a massive disservice to the people of Tasmania

There is already a generally bad vibe here the last few weeks. Everyone is upset & it's not conducive to a positive environment. I'm weeks behind on meetings with my supervisor, which means I'm weeks behind on feedback & editing.

It is hard to feel inspired to create when UTAS actions deem your community and livelihood unworthy.

Cutting humanities subjects will be detrimental to the community moving forward; we need more not less critical and creative thinking and ethical awareness, especially in STEM and Business subjects. I second everything that Jeff Malpas says in his presentation.

It doesn't affect my course as I'm not in the Arts except by electives, but it makes me concerned over how much the university cares in taking student's opinions and experiences (especially considering we are the main consumers of UTAS itself) seriously into consideration. If staff cuts and restructuring keep happening, who would want to work for UTAS? There's little job stability. If ill-advised changes that affect student experience and education keep happening with little regard for who it affects, who would want to study at UTAS? What about the people who don't get the opportunity to study elsewhere, or whose only choice is UTAS because of the unique courses it offers? It all matters, one injustice somewhere is an injustice everywhere.

This is going to affect how I finish my double degree, and affect my younger brother finishing his too. I would also assume this would continue to tank UTAS's reputation and cause

people to pursue these subjects in different ways, which continues the cycle of UTAS losing arts students and therefore taking away more funding

This part of the country is known for its arts. Taking the grass roots foundations away will be devastating. My future would change entirely.

Reducing the staffing for the arts at UTAS will put further pressure on the remaining staff (who are already under far too much stress due to the workloads they have to take on.

I won't be recommending any future friends or family members study at utas for anything. I have my own private's hope that another entity opens a competing university here but that seems a long way off. The hope is that competition could light a fire under utas and encourage it to be a decent institution.

I was afforded an amazing opportunity at UTAS to complete an Arts degree. It set me up perfectly for a career in education. I fear for future students not having a quality education in the Arts and being steered elsewhere to study.

Young people will leave the state. Education opportunities will be lost for example the huge value in a combined degree such as Arts/Law.

These changes will further negatively impact the number of politics units available for me to study. There are already very few and these changes will reduce that minuscule number even further.

I've completed my studies and Arts degree at Utas. Disappointed future students won't get the same opportunities I did. Fantastic campus in Sandy Bay and the degree set me up for my current public service career.

As I have finished my undergrad and am currently doing a MTeach, these changes don't affect me immediately. However, my desire to return to the Humanities and do an Honours year has been severely deflated. Alongside this, the cutting of the Arts does nothing but damage the community that is already struggling post-COVID at UTAS

With the cuts to Arts — especially to Criminology and International Relations — I'm now being forced to think about something I never expected: walking away from the degree I've built, and maybe even from this university. It's not something I want to do. I chose this double degree for a reason. I wanted Law to give me tools, and Arts to give me depth — the why behind the rules, the people behind the systems, the structures that shape justice. Criminology and International Relations aren't just majors to me. They're the lens through which I understand the world. They're the reason I know I want to be in this field in the first place. Now I'm being told, directly or indirectly, that those choices no longer matter. That the subjects I've committed myself to might no longer be offered in a meaningful way — or at all. That the future I imagined might not be possible here anymore. So what are my options? I could move majors. Choose something I'm less passionate about just to tick the boxes and finish the degree. But how is that fair? How is that education? It would feel like settling for a version of myself that I never wanted to become — someone just chasing a piece of paper, not a purpose. Or I could transfer to a different university. Leave behind the community I've built, the tutors who have mentored me, the city and life I've made here. Start over somewhere else just to be able to finish what I started. And that's assuming other universities aren't facing the same cuts, the same erasure of the humanities in the name of "efficiency." Either way, the cost is huge — financially, emotionally, personally. I shouldn't have to rebuild my future from scratch just because the university decided the Arts don't matter anymore. Students make plans based on trust. We trust that the degree we signed up for will still exist by the time we finish it. That the majors we declared won't vanish halfway through. That our ambitions will be supported, not dismantled. Now that trust feels broken. If I have to move, I will. If I have to start over somewhere that still believes in the value of human thought, global awareness, and social justice, I will. But I shouldn't have to. None of us should. We deserve to finish what we started — not just technically, but with integrity, with depth, with the disciplines that matter to us. It feels like the university is pulling the rug

out from under us. We enrolled in good faith, trusting that what we started would still be there when we finished. We deserve better.

With proposed changes of cutting courses and funding towards arts subjects it limits the availability of pursuing career paths and the subjects someone wants to do. If some arts are cut this year it could continue and exponentially remove more and more important art subjects. Although I may not be impacted with my specific arts degree in history, if the continual removal of arts happens, I may not even be able to finish my degree.

Additional Responses (June 6–17):

These people are losing their teaching jobs, meanwhile future arts careers are compromised.

not sure but it is a worrying

It limits my future career and study prospects. I relocated back to tasmania specifically so my husband could study at utas, and we plan to remain in tasmania. I hope to also return to university at some point and cutting these courses would mean I would have to study online to a mainland uni.

A loss to community and culture

If I decide to do more undergraduate study at UTAS, I won't be able to continue learning German there.

Definitely would affect any interest I have in attending UTAS in the future regardless of which course I take.

I would like to study post graduate fine arts and philosophy but it may be too expensive or have limitations to support which is disappointing.

Less opportunities to pursue artistic practice and expression. Uncertain social and cultural implications

Any loss to arts is a loss to community

If we cut teachers it means the UTAS arts degree will not be able to provide suitable education for students.

As a media student, I don't know what this change will mean for my future. Media already feels like it is in an inbetween space. Having to find spaces in the hedberg or down at hunter street instead of having our own space. Will the content change? Will the focus change to more communications than media production? Will it take away opportunities for practical/industry experience therefore impacting my ability to get a job in the future? The thing is, I don't know and that's concerning.

As a Marine and Antarctic student, the Uni is embarrassing itself. The arts is such an important discipline for this Uni, and I have many friends who have moved interstate or from rural TAS to study arts subjects. The beautiful work I have seen and has evolved from UTAS arts is incredible, and I'm disappointed that the whole discipline is being reduced in the way it is proposed to. Not to mention there is a crucial cultural connection between arts and science, and the Marine and other science students I know will be forced to neglect their other interests. If UTAS cares so much about prioritising science, why don't we look at the proportion of science students adding to their debt to study arts subjects. I am not even close to disadvantaged directly by these changes, and yet even I'm aware of the significance this change will have on the quality of education of so many Uni students.

I think the students currently enrolled in the affected courses, some of which are my friends, will have to leave and seek education elsewhere, so it's costing students and the UTAS community while also preventing me from taking these units as a electives

This would heavily impact my future and career. I cannot afford to go interstate for my education, I may have to decide on a new career path if I can't be given adequate opportunity to study the Arts.

In relation to my community, Tasmania already has a struggling education system, and minimising the Arts at UTAS will have a huge impact on Tasmanians who want to attend university for the arts, but cannot afford to move interstate. Online uni doesn't cut it for most people, and this should not be used as an excuse. How are Tasmania's political, social and arts sectors supposed to progress if our only point of access for education in these topics is reduced.

It means I'd be limited in my courses and if the precedent of cutting humanities classes continues I would have had to go interstate for university.

The Arts is essential

It won't affect me directly but it will force arts students to move away for studies

Much of the creative industry in my community is a product of students who attended it's courses

I have always loved arts and have thought about persuing it at UTAS but with the cuts I see no reason to try to persue it if the area isn't supported anymore. So many more people will be forced to move

away and we already have terrible moving away for uni rates here in Tas (even more so in anywhere but Hobart)

I don't know, I'm finishing my degree but, as a proud Tasmanian, it's made me less likely to want to start a family and raise kids here if their options of university courses at home don't include quality arts subjects.

Less opportunity to explore the future of humanities.

undermine the value of my UTas credentials

The cuts could affect my access to studios in the Art School, and having less teachers means less one on one support and as a student with a LAP, I need that support.

Dont know yet

I'm not sure

I don't know how I am going to proceed with my Arts & Fine Arts bachelors now, proposing such drastic cuts and trying to go through with them so quickly makes me fear that there will be more to follow. The Arts school is important to the Tasmanian community. I remember touring the place as a high school student and thinking "I can't wait to go here".

It is why I chose UTAS over moving to the mainland to pursue a degree there.

We will have a worse off University and border community without funding of arts education

If you could say one thing directly to UTAS leadership, what would it be?

Stop running us into the ground if you value Tassie so much!

I'm incredibly disappointed and the fast and quiet nature of these changes, with little to no student consultation. What the hell guys

I love Hobart, and the community I've built around me is irreplaceable. These cuts prevent young Tasmanians from pursuing the education and careers they want to, and an educated Tasmania is a united Tasmania.

The arts are integral to creating informed, critical and creative global citizens. Cutting the arts means removing opportunities to engage with the world in this way and forces us to move beyond Tasmania to study. People don't seem to understand what the arts actually are, and the misinformation and secrecy surrounding the cuts has only fuelled this more.

Listen and consult with student students because we are who this impacts.

Fuck youuuu

Listen to your students. Be transparent. Engage clearly. This is not good enough Why

did you not consult students about these major changes??

You should be ashamed of what this university has become.

Please, listen to what the experts you hired to teach have to say about their fields. If money is such an issue, 1 year of the VC salary could cover 8 level B academics for the same period

Listen to the students - if you truly want more enrolments then UTAS leadership needs to understand the very simple notion that a University's enrolments is first and foremost dependent on its reputation, and UTAS is absolutely tanking its reputation by taking actions that directly harm their students' experiences. What prospective artist is going to study at UTAS when this is the experience their contemporaries have faced? Why would I recommend the media degree to people interested when there's a huge chance the university will cut staff, cut funding, not listen to students or staff, and move and fuck us around?

Please remember that the arts are incredibly important to Tasmania's culture, community, and society. Fostering the education of the arts is important, and I hope you see how much these cuts would negatively affect Tasmanians.

Listen to your students, your staff, your community. Stop treating all of us like we are in the way of your profits. Earn your salaries and engage in an actually meaningful way - not another rushed through restructure - with all of your stakeholders. That's more than thing, sorry.

As a place of higher education, your student and teaching staff no matter what they discipline, should come first.

Please don't gut the arts in times of global uncertainty. We have seen again and again in times of global unrest, fascism and crisis that the arts are the first to go, and yet they are our best form of rebellion and upholding society. What differentiates humans and from other animals? I would say, our culture and ability to communicate. Now, what is language? An art. What do you think of when you read the word culture? Art galleries, museums maybe.

Perhaps history and live theatre. Guess what they all are? Arts. Please do not gut the arts. Tasmania is an isle of creatives, and unless you, the only university in the state want them all to leave, causing the economy and culture of our beautiful state to suffer, then keep the arts alive or people will. Tasmania is not a business centre, it is not a trading centre. It is an island of the arts and farming, and with climate change, farming is becoming a more and more uncertain practice. The arts are so important to Tassie, with Mona, Dark Mofo, Party in the Paddock and so many other celebrations of the arts being the things Tasmania is most famous for. Keep us on the map and keep creatives in the state. People want to study and live here, so let them.

You are not doing what is in your students' and staffs' best interests.

Stop the cuts

Utas lurches from crisis to crisis. I have no confidence in the leaders at utas. Tasmania needs better.

The arts are vitally important, from signs and ads to the music you listen to every day and the art that makes you smile, cutting the arts is not just a small action it impacts everyone because art impacts everyone.

Where is our consultation

A lot of you have probably done arts degrees. The humanities should be a given at any university. The study of the arts makes us more well rounded, critical, empathetic people in our chosen areas. I don't understand.

Tasmania's future as an economic entity is inherently tied to the states ability to attract national and international tourism - our cultural offerings (Mona, Dark Mofo, Local Galleries)

are at risk of falling behind in mediocrity if we do not have good support for furthering the next generations of creative thinking

The UTAS slogan "ingeniis patuit campus" was taken from a Latin poem and was put forward by a classicist to the university. The very heart of this university has always been the arts and what you are doing is unfair and insensitive to your students. Please listen to us and reconsider. We just want to be heard and not have our disciplines erased.

Even from a purely business point of view (which seems to be your lens), what you're doing makes absolutely no sense. From a business perspective, students are your customers. If a business isn't attracting customers, shouldn't they speak to their customers and find out what they want, rather than firing staff to cut costs? You need to be speaking with students and finding out why we want to be here, and then do more of that! You also need to advertise theatre the same way you're advertising all the other courses, so people know we're here!

Be more transparent

Stop making financial gain your only concern. Listen to students. No one wants the campuses moved from sandy Bay. No one wants arts and humanities cut. Start caring about the students rather than your bank account.

Please LISTEN to your students. A university is supposed to be a place for people to learn, not for you to make money at the expense of others. These are not just courses you are cutting, but possibilities and forcing people to look elsewhere, at other universities, to find education.

I had quite a high opinion of UTAS at the start of this year, but things like this have soured it quite a bit. Even if the proposed changes were entirely reasonable and something I and

others would support, there should have been clear communication and an opportunity to give or withhold support

You guys are so greedy oh my goodness!! Stop paying the guy in charge so much, then maybe you could afford to give us the courses we wish to study.

Listen to the students. They're the ones paying your salary, they're the ones your university depends on. Without students, you are nothing but a building.

The Arts matter. Humanities and Social Science encourage and foster critical thinking. Theatre and Visual Arts and like are important political tools but also incredibly important for fostering community and connection. Do not cut these critical disciplines at such a politically fraught time in our world.

When the world was falling apart during Covid, we were locked away in our homes, who did you turn to? ARTISTS. Film, theatre, visual arts are so unbelievably important.

When will you put student interests before your own short term financial gain? Why can't you be a leader for the Arts in the same way you champion sustainability, to promote long term growth in industry and the state's cultural future?

please invest in this program as you are investing in the health and wellbeing of future generations

These cuts will negatively impact everyone, think carefully about what will be best for the community, not just the budget. It's time for Rufus Black to leave

You know, I met someone who studied fine arts at UTAS a little while ago. They said that the art school was the pinnacle of Fine Arts in Australia, where people would travel from all over the world to study here. Doesn't that sound like a nice fairytale?

Why not invest more money to make a nationally recognised and celebrated arts program to encourage people to come to utas

How dare you make these decisions behind the backs of the students they'll effect. The almost complete lack of communication from UTAS leadership has been incredibly disappointing.

Focus your efforts on education and research not on real estate. You have an awesome campus & environment at Sandy Bay but you are hell bent on destroying it, along with the sense of community. Arts is valuable. In an age of global uncertainty and AI threatening our collective intelligence, critical thinking is more important than ever.

as the only university in the state you have a responsibility to provide education for your students and your state. arts are a central to the tasmanian culture, and by cutting arts you are failing the community.

Value the arts/humanities - they are crucial for well-functioning societies.

Reconsider your cuts, 13 lecturers are 13 too many.

Please reconsider this proposal, cuts to the Arts would be so damaging to an already thankless industry.

I do not think there are many Tasmanian students in grade 11 and 12 who are keen on joining UTAS after all they've seen over the last few years in news. All UTAS has come to be

known for is poor-management and it's disregard of communal obligations. We need world class in person education in all fields and disciplines, and UTAS should be able to deliver on that obligation. Instead of trying to be like other Universities, we need to be the point of difference. Why would a student do an online degree from UTAS instead of Deakin, RMIT, Griffith, Swinburne, etc? We need to deliver in-person quality education to Tasmanians. We need Tasmanians to be proud of being associated to UTAS. Our quality and range of offerings should be so good that no Tasmanian should even have a doubt about where they want to go for their university education. Instead of making cuts, we need to strengthen our programs by investing more!

Devaluing the arts and humanities at UTAS is not only ridiculous but completely unfair to the people going into debt to study these things. This is not the decision of a respectable institution.

Please listen to the students and people being impacted! They are at the heart of the issue

Be transparent. Be informative. Be better.

Stand up for us! Tasmania needs the arts. The arts need support! Your

lack of transparency is disappointing and disgusting

get your act together

That you should be disgusted in yourself for what you are thinking of doing to the community you claim to care about, and the staff members you look after. And that you are kidding yourselves if you think that all of us in the fine arts community are going to submit to such hypocrisy that you, as a university to the people, are proposing to do.

Put your money where your mouth is, and actually create an institution that is FOR Tasmania.

Dont behave like just another corporation.

That arts subjects are just as important as STEM to the economy and to society.

ask for opinions and give feedback and information, it really isn't that hard to consider the students if you actually care

what the hell are U thinking

The cuts are not in the best interests of UTAS and this will be incredibly detrimental for the future of the university

Why don't you care about the education you give to students. Do they not matter??

This is more than just saving money, it is people's lives, passions and community you're taking away

Listen to us. These cuts affects so many people. The amazing lecturers who have this proposal hanging over their heads, the current students who don't know how they will finish their degree, and the people who are dreaming of creating a difference, who need a place to hone their skills, now being forced to look for alternatives. We should not be sending our best and brightest creatives out on their own to find their way, but honing their passions here to contribute to our growing arts scene should be the top priority.

Listen to your students and teaching staff- they are the only important people in these decisions given university is about education- this is not a chance to further monetise your

so called business- a range of staff, courses, and students (including international) support not only education but also the reputation of the uni

Seriously think about your everyday life and how many past arts students have contributed to your hobbies, products, tourism experiences, your children's care, the media you watch, the books you read, the food you eat - everything is touched by the arts and humanities. You need to protect them.

With all the money that the university has at its disposal it still chooses to bully those that want to learn outside the societal norm.

I understand that you need to be making money, but by the planned cuts will make it extremely harder for individuals doing humanities to want to come/remain at UTAS. Won't that impact the uni more?

That it's frustrating that we pay so much to the uni yet they plan cut staff and classes without communication to the students it effects, it feels like the students and their opinions aren't valued Nothing.

You should have the best interests of students and staff at heart. It is clear you do not.

Cut yourselves first

Please don't allow this to happen, even if this were to happen, at least give students 1 or 2 years in advance about this proposition. A lot of peers I know have a safe space with theatre and the arts.

Listen to your students' voices and actually act on their recommendations - UTAS is already struggling and dying, and encouraging people genuinely interested in the arts to seek education elsewhere by way of these cuts is despicable.

Education is more than a pass mark and a slip of paper. Financial viability is important, however it is not the core purpose of a university. Reflect on why you exist and live to the values you espouse.

Do better. There are thousands of people who have so much love for the arts and are told their whole life's it isn't a real job and it's "just a hobby" with you basically killing the arts and theatre program you're just cementing that into peoples head that maybe they couldn't do the things they love.

Listen to us! In the short term this might be a viable option, but you know your actions around this will mean you lose future students. We want to study here- so let us get the best possible opportunity, you are creating an environment of academic division and inequality between sciences and humanities/arts. We just want to be heard and apart of the process

Start prioritising education and valuing students and academics over building and corporate promotion. The Arts matter.

You need to consider how much creative works impacts society. Taking away these resources will lead to Tasmania's leaving to find these resources somewhere else Fine art education is vital to Tasmanian culture.

CUTTING THE ARTS, CUTTING TASMANIA'S CREATIVE INDUSTRY.

You're being selfish & your "business" sucks

Art is instrumental, impactful and necessary. Everything UTAS needs for a fantastic Arts Campus is there - it just needs to be invested in.

Focus on education not property development

People come first, not your badly managed budget. High quality education and experience -> happy students and happy staff -> lower dropout rates and higher enrolments, higher satisfaction in UTAS, all the better for everyone. We are paying you (and sacrificing) so much for a quality education, so please deliver. Do not make compromising decisions upon the student population. Nobody cares about your no.1 in climate change thing when you can't sustain students wanting to come to an increasingly empty University.

Please show me your internal business accounting statements for every single area of UTAS so I can understand why UTAS functions financially as it does and if there is really no other options when it comes to being financially stable

The arts are such an incredibly important part of a community, without it all of the other services lose their meaning.

Enrolment numbers in the bachelor of fine arts are higher than in years prior at the Launceston campus. We as a student body have been advocating for expansion of the units offered to us in this discipline, and the proposed changes intend to do the opposite.

Get rid of the financial backers that never step foot in the campus, that use Rufus black as their figure head, and evolve to be an institution that genuinely works with and cares for student by having a proper student and staff council. Not a buisness.

STOP the property portfolio and development and get back to your core business - tertiary education and research.

Listen to the people who might actually know more than ypu about what young Tasmanians need from UTAS. This decision is a huge mistake.

The process and lack of lengthy, proper consultation regarding these proposed changes is unfair and shows a lack of care for staff and student wellbeing. The timeline for the current "consultation" process is laughably short and the timing of it during the exam period shows, at the very least, a lack of awareness in how UTAS works.

Leave utas alone. Stop cutting back. Its a wonderful university my husband and i attended and enjoyed.

Will these cuts be accompanied with appropriate cuts to course costs?

What you're doing is disgraceful. You're not just cutting courses — you're dismantling the soul of the university. Criminology, International Relations, music, fine arts, languages — these aren't extras. They are essential to understanding the world, building empathy, and expressing human experience. This is an attack on justice, creativity, culture, and connection. We enrolled to learn, to grow, to be challenged. Instead, you've chosen to devalue everything that makes education meaningful. We see what you're doing. And we will not forget it.

Stop. Reconsider. Ask the students. Ask the staff. People involved and affected need to have an opinion because it affects their career, aspirations, and current lived. Decisions like this take time and yes admittedly money is a factor. But the reality is that Arts degrees and subjects are vital to society and career paths, helping build the economy, and individuals self of place in Tasmania.

Additional Responses (June 6–17):

UTAS students deserve a voice. Even the smallest of changes directly affect us and our future. It's only fair and right to include us in any changes.

Think about who you are affecting and the immense amount of jobs lost, especially in this cost of living crisis.

Please reconsider dropping units, even if they are kept but made available online

Tasmania has a thriving arts and culture community which has a huge positive impact on tourism, why would you remove courses that allow people to study within tasmania and keep those skills and that knowledge here. How can we grow as a state if you reduce our options.

Educating people is is an investment that affects everyone, it is a responsibility you have to take seriously. Stop education as a product and return to education as an experience

If these changes really are being made due to financial difficulty, should you be allowed to manage your own finances or do you need auditing? Stop buying buildings in the city

Please don't cut the arts funding :(

Philosophy is central to university and a productive society needs this higher thinking to solve architectural problems related to preventive health.

Understand how much the arts mean to people and the affordances they offer

We need arts now more than ever, to help people to critically think and reflect on the world from all worldviews

Please save the arts degree and stop cutting teachers.

Keep the people involved. This is a big change, and yet so many people are unaware of it, understand it, or the impact it will have on them.

You're so failed! Killing student campus life by moving campus, and then saving money by implementing digital education delivery, and then damaging your reputation and then losing more future students and then cut more staff!!!!

Why wasn't this more clearly announced to students? I only heard of it through TUSA, why isn't student services notifying everyone?

Think of your students, not your properties. UTAS is the only university in Tasmania but each year it feels less like it. You are an educational institution not a property investment. Students should expect a decent education as they are paying you very large sums of money. You are wasting students money, they paid to be there and to be taught, but if you cut their courses they are losing years of their life and education in that course. Would you rather be greedy and blindside students or would you rather be a proper university.

What was the purpose in creating new campuses when you were clearly running out of money when your current ones were perfectly fit to purpose?

Stop!

Cutting the arts courses when the arts are thriving in Tasmania is an utterly ridiculous decision

This action is appalling. Please at the bare minimum communicate with your staff and students. You show no care for their wellbeing, wishes, or opinions and you should be ashamed of it.

For once could you please /listen/ to your staff and student body, maybe then so many of us wouldn't be looking at transfers

Is the legacy you want to leave just the clear evidence that UTas holds a monopoly which is not being managed in the public interest?

I won't say you'll regret the cutting in the future. Because from this moment on, Tasmania will begin burning away its arts and spirits in a countdown and you dare not to face it.

Staff and students ought to have a genuine, meaningful and efficacious roll in uni decision making

Stop treating the Arts like our degrees aren't valuable to society.

Resign

Listen to your students, and stop cutting staff

Even running when your university as a business, this is a bad plan. With less options in our home state, even more students will choose to go to mainland universities. Tasmanians will see that our own institution does not value them and study elsewhere.

Stop the cuts and invest in the arts

"What do you value most about studying at UTAS?"

(This might be a teacher, class, environment, relationship, or feeling.) "

n/a - not a student

The feelings of community and trust I've had in my classes

The lecturers and tutors, especially in the history department. The units are well structured, interesting and relevant.

I love the diversity of UTAS. I love how connected the different disciplines are and the relationships that fosters.

I love getting to study the areas I'm passionate about, and having staff who are just as passionate about the course material is so valuable, and I really appreciate this aspect of utas.

I really love the community culture, and I am already apprehensive regarding the campus move, and now they wish to further dismantle the arts community

Some of the teachers at UTAS were incredible; they took so much care and consideration for all of their students not only as a collective but also as individuals.

UTAS used to be a place to go when you didn't have classes, because that's where everyone was. 18-25 year olds are feeling more isolated than ever, rather than building property portfolios, why not invest in your students?

The environment - the arts school is a fun, collaborative, welcoming space. Walking the halls looking at paintings, seeing student-made magazines and film, sculpture. Interdisciplinary discussion. The shared space.

The teachers and class environment — especially among the arts, they foster the development of not only my work, but myself as a person.

The teachers are fabulous. The possibilities for a vibrant creative community that includes the art school are frustratingly close. If the staff were encouraged and supported and felt actually valued it could be wonderful.

The classes that really curate passion. Ones that may be niche or cliché but really invite students to give it their all. Specific classes that I have found this passion in are: creative writing professional practice, writing for performance, popular genres and the ancient civilisation classes

Everything

The teaching staff are awesome.

I don't study there yet but am looking to next year. I want to study at UTAS because it means that I don't have to move away from my family.

My peers

Being able to study locally and have access to higher education in the Arts

Staff

Great staff

Learning! With other people! I love the humanities faculty, they have really taught me so much I can't put it into words. I am so grateful to have been at UTAS because I couldn't study this in my hometown - and UTAS, if you're hoping to keep young people in Tasmania this is not the way to do it.

N/A - Not a current student. The thing that appeals as a potential student is being able to stay in tasmania and contribute to it's future

The humanities staff are so wonderful, I will treasure my experience with them forever. They have always been so supportive and are all just excellent teachers.

The community Asher, Jane, Davina and Alex are building in the theatee degree. My classmates. The ability to make art and experiment.This place is amazing!

Being able to study in my home state while working

It is hard to put it to one thing, but I value the teachers and students I have met the most, and this affects them all greatly.

The campus environment, the class options (for a science course), and the teachers and staff

Location, convenience, tusa goodies

Having a university close to home has been a game changer. I would not have had the opportunity to study if I was not able to live at home. I also love on-campus classes, and I think they're super important for learning and making new friends.

The staff I have encountered through social sciences and humanities disciplines are incredible. They are passionate and they care about student outcomes.

NA

The teachers in my experience have often gone above and beyond to provide students with the greatest learning experience. In my case this has been a willingness to chat things through and show me how to use media equipment outside class time, providing guest speakers to talk on industry and providing live zoom lectures instead of prerecorded ones as in person lectures are another cut that I could get angry about. I love my counselor at UTAS. Staff in general in my experience are amazing and helpful.

I love the environment our teaches have created. It's one of acceptance, encouragement and inspiration

As an outsider, I can't comment on the school environment, but I love the work UTAS does in the community like TASPOP and similar.

Connection to the place - being able to interact with peers, on campus.

Teachers that cherish and embrace our ideas and creativity

Being able to attend all of my lectures in person has been so crucial to me staying on top of my studies. With studying both Science and Languages having all my lectures run in person on the same campus has been amazing.

It has expanded my thinking and increased my desire to learn

the staff who i have encountered are unbelievably passionate about their work, some of the most genuine people out there.

Local student vibe within community

My lecturers are everything to the Fine Arts course, I truly feel that the lecturers we have are the reason so many continue the course and learn and enjoy what they do.

The support that is given by the staff, I study UTAS courses at Hobart College, and the interaction between UTAS staff and the students is extremely reliable, and useful.

The strength of the faculty, the production facilities, and the in-person experience.

The environment and relationships I've made while studying

I love studying psychology

Feeling of community, Lecturers who work extremely hard and genuinely care.

The ability to try new things

The fact that I can still be with my family and friends.

As a future student, the sandy bay campus is so important to me. The few times i have been on that campus, the sense of community i felt there was astronomical, and the thought of that being stripped away from us, is terrifyingly. In a time when our society is being pinned against each other of political views, economic status, ethnic background, sexual and gender, and neurodivergent, it is so very important that we have space, like those in fine arts departments and the sandy bay campus, for all of us to be and exist without judgement or criticism. And that being taken away from us is a hit to our humanity.

Being close to home and friends.

Campus culture and academic growth

The teaching staff in the arts department are underpaid overworked and undervalued but they still manage to put their entire being into their work. There are teachers working here that are irreplaceable, that have changed hundreds of students lives in their work. It's inconceivable to me that they aren't treated incredibly

i love being at the sandy bay campus and being in a clear academic environkent where i know i am surrounded by fellow students and teachers. the humanities staff are all so intelligent and clearly love their subjects as well, which makes me, as a student, feel supported and encouraged

the variety of class options and the on campus community

I enjoy the community that UTAS has offered me and I would hate for my more artistic friends to move away to further their craft

I value the relationships with my fellow students that I have cultivated. Being in an environment with likeminded individuals who want to create, working under staff that give their all to allow us that privilege, is the best thing about this department, and the fact that it could all change in a year is heartbreaking.

The local-ness - being able to experience Tasmania through the sandy bay campus and the staff and the courses that interest tasmanians

Environment of the arts buildings, the resources available to study a wide breadth of mediums and subjects, accessible and unique experiences

The ease at which teachers work a new student through a very difficult field such as English literature.

The teachers who run classes care SO MUCH about their students (shout out to Billy in German) and it's sad to watch as they potentially lose their jobs whilst their work in developing the course is simultaneously gotten rid of

My favourite classes have been my small niche history tutorials, they're so much fun and interesting.

For me, the prospect of studying at any university is exciting and the chance to expand my knowledge precious. So the knowledge and opportunity.

My wonderful professors and tutors in the classics faculty.

The people

I'm privileged to even get an education at UTAS, and to have this wonderful opportunity to create a dream future from my education. I have had many teachers who have supported me emotionally with struggles and relationships with new students who I thought I would never be friends with

Being able to live in and enjoy my home state of Tasmania while studying for my tertiary education.

Teaching staff, campus life facilitating cross discipline engagement, adopting new ways of learning and knowing.

The class environment being smaller, it's more interactive and the teachers here genuinely care about what they are teaching- so much so it breaks their hearts to have their classes cut. I value the resilience of the teachers in the midst of a struggling humanities and arts program- they are so passionate it encourages us as students to study hard.

We have fantastic teachers at the art school. They are so dedicated. I greatly respect and value them.

John Vella is a great lecturer!! Also to have studios is a great and valuable experience Great creative environment and supportive staff.

I value my interactions on campus with other students and my teachers

The technicians, staff & fellow students. Especially the technicians though, & the workshops.

Lectures & Facilities. I've had the pleasure of having Neil Haddon as my tutor for the past two semesters - his passion and care is inspiring, invigorating and highly supportive.

I have enjoyed the environment of the Sandy Bay campus because of the spirit of the place. I want to see that spirit protected but it is already dissipating as the campus is being divided up and disunified.

The people who show up and support each other. The teachers who are passionate about their subjects and put in all the effort to make it engaging.

Almost all of the staff I interact with are amazing and are going above and beyond to help me learn content that would be given more than one week of content on the mainland. I understand why so many teachers have left UTAS, and truly feel that a lot of the staff that remain are there because they are passionate about what they do and are yet to be pushed over the edge by UTAS

The teachers are so passionate and the place and building itself are inspiring.

The fine arts lecturers here in Launceston have really had a significant impact on my education here. Without them, there are units I feel like I would not have been able to succeed in as I did.

The teaching and technical staff. And the facilities, which are also being closed down and the same rate the staff are being brutalised.

I valued staying in my home state and excellent teaching staff and social connection.

Opportunity to cross pollinate between faculties and the environment of the Sandy Bay campus.

There are some truly wonderful teachers who are clearly passionate about their subjects. This contributes to positive student experience and engagement.

Knowledge of the lecturers.

Ease of access, to be honest. It is the closest university to where I live.

I value the teaching staff, always engaged and so knowledgeable about the topics they teach and insightful to be able to expand our minds.

In person classes taught by specialised teachers.

Additional Responses (June 6–17):

Teachers, tutors and support staff. Nothing runs smoothly without them.

The amount of options UTAS has to offer and how that in turn brings inclusivity and community to every campus.

availability of a variety of subjects to study, great staff

I cant answer this myself as im not a student, but my husband is and the sense of community at the university, and the connections to the wider tas community are so valuable. I studied on the mainland and it is very removed and impersonal.

Creating communities of people, friends, and future colleagues

As a science student, I value lecturers that are experts in their field. Many have done interesting research on useful technologies

The Hunter Street campus is inspiring. I enjoy using the library as an alumni graduate to further my current research.

Support systems and staff available

Feeling of connection to universal principles

I value the teachers they are amazing and have made learning so much better.

Media is a small course, with a tight group of students. I really value the tight knit environment this provides. The practical opportunities that are offered to students. The way that different ways of learning are promoted.

Campus. Give me back the campus life, not business buildings which are not suitable for student campus life.

I value being able to stay in Tasmania to continue my formal education in an inspired environment with other like minded artists. We have strong connections and I would be devastated to see these people and myself have our course cut and left to join new courses we do not have the passion for.

Small class sizes and the law faculty

Being in a classroom with like minded people.

Collegiality

When I studied the theatre course it gave me so many skills that I use in everyday life as well as my theatre practices

The opportunity to learn through experiment and play before being thrust into the world

I love how the community of UTAS has been presented it seems lively

The wonderful Arts Lecturers I've had! Louise Richardson-Self, James Chase, David Coady. Being so close to nature and home. But apart from that, had I had my choice again, I regret not accepting the mainland offers I received.

Relationships

face to face communities

I'm grateful and value Jan Hogan and Natasha Rowell. They not only have helped me with learning new skills but they are understanding when I am not doing well mentally and will accommodate me.

The opportunity to be around positive like minded people

One of my lecturers

I used to value the security in knowing that I would not have to move away from Tasmania to get a decent education. I am not so sure anymore.

The community

What do you think is stopping more students from enrolling in Arts & Humanities at UTAS?

Not enough resources, and better courses with better reputations on the mainland.

People are under the impression that these subjects are "Mickey Mouse degrees" and have no worthwhile job prospects. UTAS' resources are also limited, so arts students might find more value at other schools

Lack of units, overall lack of general support for the arts

Costs, lack of classes

People misunderstand the arts and think that there are no opportunities within the sector, which is fundamentally untrue. Utas should be supporting this discipline and advertising what incredible opportunities and talent there is, instead of aiding in discouraging people by reinforcing these preconceptions through the cuts.

I don't think there are enough opportunities for arts students to be arts students, for example I was unable to attend my history unit in person this semester due to the class being full. Yet they intend on straining the history staff even further?? No effort is put into the arts, and students are spread across too many spaces to meaningfully have community contact and opportunities

Future career opportunities and the financial instability not only during studying, but postgrad as well.

Arts and Humanities have always been shat upon by Tasmanians. I don't know how you reverse that, but these cuts are not the way.

I mean its obvious - artists will study art at a school that values the arts. The university has made it abundantly clear to the public that they have no interest in supporting the arts. Resolve this reputation issue and theyll get more enrolments. The entire state does not want to study at IMAS. The more people you cater for, the more people will enrol.

UTAS isn't known for the arts despite Tasmania's rich art and culture. Students may feel that other universities will provide a greater experience in the arts, or see other courses at UTAS as better options for their futures.

The reputation of the school is terrible. It's seen as a poor second choice to mainland universities. The school has been stifled into a cold and unwelcoming space. Locked doors, unfriendly empty spaces, nowhere to even get a coffee let alone lunch!! Reduced face to face time, and no lectures mean that students don't get that incidental hanging around chatting and making connections with other students and with staff. Creative students want community and Hobart's a small place. If people are unhappy everyone knows it.

The student housing is ridiculously expensive for what it's provides meaning that interstate students no longer see Tasmania as a viable option.

Arts and humanities aren't degrees that will make you a lot of money a lot of the time, so that can be a barrier mentally. Also, a lot of young people leave the state for places like Melbourne which has a bigger scene for young people and the arts Continued

decline of opportunities and courses in this field.

Having a wider selection of courses

Staff are ground down and unhappy. It looks like a bad place to work

Cost and shrinking courses

The dissolving of the degree over so many years, Indigenous Studies was cut years ago, Gender Studies only has 1 staff member, English has become creative writing AND literary criticism instead of having 2 streams. UTAS obviously hasn't cared about the arts for a long time and students can tell this! I think it's also not primarily about the university, but about Tasmania as a whole. The lure of the mainland is strong and that's ok!

Students / Young Tasmanian's moving interstate for more attractive prospects

UTAS already has a bad reputation to arts students. Many people don't want to enrol there because they know not much funding is being put towards these areas and they want to make sure they receive a quality education. Importantly, UTAS does not advertise their arts degrees to anywhere near the same capacity as they do other areas. If real work was out into promoting the arts and humanities instead of squashing it further I am confident that enrolments would rise.

They don't know we're here. They don't know what we offer because utas doesn't promote it. Or, they do know and they're turned off by all the online learning. UTAS can't compete as an online institute - it needs to be in person because community is what matters.

The quality of the courses. That at least for music it's only offered in Hobart.

The fact that UTAS will cut so much, this will become unappealing for people to attend here, or even impossible.

Not marketed well, and utas has a bad reputation amongst young people / high school age people due to limited number of courses

Job insecurity. I think if UTAS needs more Arts and Humanities enrollments, there needs to be a greater focus on developing employable skills such as internships, career fairs, networking opportunities so students feel like they know where they can go with a degree in those areas.

Lack of care by upper power

I think it's the fact that the University already disregards and underfunds the arts and humanities, and they are often the most expensive degrees so it's more attractive for students to study somewhere else. Job opportunities might be another one as there's perceived less in the field than elsewhere in the country.

I was not aware that my major existed until someone told. There is a massive misconception that the Theatre course has been dropped completely from UTAS Accessibility, support in careers after degree completion.

The shit investments and lack of marketing

Reduced subject choices & options, mashing together units

lack of options. i moved away because of the limited courses offered at utas.

Large fees, policy that disincentivises the arts/humanities

The cuts, how is stopping more funding to the course going to create a welcoming environment to feel the need to be enrolled in?

There isn't enough representation and advertisement made for the program by the Uni.

The push for online education, and the lack of enthusiasm shown by Uni for continuing with arts over a very long period of time.

Likely the same reason UTAS is cutting resources on them — they aren't seen as lucrative or intellectually valuable as other areas of study.

Less career opportunities/competition

This lack of instability and transparency from the Utas leaders

Knowing that UTAS doesn't care about Arts and Humanities. Merging units and cutting staff leading to lower quality education.

A poor reputation due to underfunding.

Not enough advertising about the subject options that UTAS provides.

The fact that it is not advertised. When I went to a uni convention, I talked to a Utas student rep, they told me that UTas didn't offer a theatre or acting courses. So that they are lying about what courses they offer initially discouraged me from applying.

Expanded curriculum and opportunity. The cost compared to other degrees.

Lack of initiative to expand subjects.

The government just jacked the price up for humanities subjects, along with these constant budget cuts, redundancies and neglect its no wonder why students aren't choosing to study here. The writings on the wall, UTAS doesn't value you.

possibly the lack of advertising from utas and the fact that many younger people move to the mainland to 'escape'. obviously this isn't the uni's fault but they be putting more effort in within secondary schools to encourage students to apply, as other universities do

the school doesn't offer the subjects they want and also a lack of funding

They may not see a career in those fields

UTAS is more known for other disciplines like marine science and geography. Not enough people know about how good arts and humanities is.

Lack of UTAS support- we are constantly told we don't matter (cutting staff/courses) and are not valued in workplaces or politics

The prospect of the course being cut before finishing and not enough graduate positions available

I believe it's the sheer lack of effort by the university's hierarchy in supporting feasible solutions to a cut, but also the lack of care they have for the arts college out of all the UTAS colleges.

Cost, career prospects , the common idea that arts degrees are easy or not worth it Perhaps

a lack of knowledge.

Lack of options.

Everything is going online, students don't want to turn up to class therefore theatre and arts classes are very small and very limited. Therefore in hindsight might stop other people from enrolling

Because people genuinely interested in arts and humanities tertiary education are more likely to go to a more prestigious institution, such as VCA or NIDA. UTAS could have a competitive advantage over these institutions if they listened to their students and modelled themselves better on more prestigious institutions, but they squander every opportunity to do so.

Uncertainty and a feeling that UTAS doest value their discipline.

A wider variety of diverse courses and reliability- we are offering lots of what other universities can easily provide, we have unique history and stories and opportunities within humanities and arts, so let's empower teachers to diversify courses and empower students to qualify for unique degrees. Beyond this we are on of the only universities who relies heavily on online learning- let's enforce more on campus lectures and tutorials- most people learn better in class

More course and more unit choice within fine arts.

The state of the economy and job prospects in the arts.

The uncertainty on whether Utas will provide a good education, and to whether they will be able to complete their degrees without Utas stripping the arts back Too many units have been cut - why bother?

As it is not being cared for by UTAS it's not really RENOWNED for being the place to study arts or humanities. If UTAS invested care into more staff, a cafe on HUNTER street campus, a livelier culture amongst students. Maybe people would enrol.

Financial impediments, i.e., too expensive? Cutting of units ('this unit is currently unavailable' made my degree difficult to navigate)? Uncertainty about career pathways? Is it that Arts & Humanities are considered a soft option and not given the respect they deserve?

I don't know as I'm not an arts student, but it does seem like the arts & humanities are not taken as seriously as other courses that have a direct impact on society (e.g. healthcare, business, engineering, etc) by governments in general. There is often the idea that arts and humanities are not practical in finding a secure career after education, but these subjects do matter to society in an intangible way. I think what's stopping more students in enrolling in Arts & Humanities is probably what is stopping students from enrolling in any course in UTAS, for that matter, which is the overall experience of the UTAS experience. It's just not that great coming here to study in general.

The lack of funding that is put into the programs already, which then becomes a vicious cycle. My theory is that UTAS feels that they have a lot more wiggle room doing stuff like this

because they are the only uni in Tasmania, so many people (such as myself) enroll because they want a higher education and can't afford to go to the mainland

Uncertainty in their future

Lack of units. Consolidating units and cutting them makes it harder to get the most out of our educations. By replacing units for specialties with units from other degrees, it is doing more harm than good (eg. having one of the second year units for the gender and diversity major being a unit from criminology)

The word isn't staying within utas, it's out in the public. Utas doesn't care for its students unless those students make it money. This approach will be the death of Utas.

My students are choosing not to go to Utas because of poor choice of subjects, loss of staff, too much online learning. An example one student gave me last year. He left Utas Law to go interstate as he was being lectured in Australian Law by a British online lecturer with no law degree. in the UK

Uncertainty, lack of confidence in the administration and Vice Chancellor, and the move to the Forestry Building.

The high costs of arts degrees that were exacerbated by the Coalition's legislation in 2020. Additionally, decreased international student enrollment due to student caps, high visa

costs, and Australia's culture of racism. Cost of living is causing students to drop out because student welfare is disgustingly low, students cannot reasonably work full time and study.

Having courses become restricted on what may be available to study once starting their degree

Course costs

It's just not valued at UTAS like the flashy "more important" degrees, when it goes hand in hand with other disciplines and I think due to the lack of focus or money put into it, it's been let to wither. Additionally it's not in any of Utas advertisements so it's not being promoted for the uni as a degree they offer

The availability across the state, in both main campuses of Launceston and Hobart. While online is offered for most subjects, it doesn't work for everybody. While other classes in other fields like science are offered broadly, humanities subjects are limited by specialist teachers.

Additional Responses (June 6–17):

Not knowing enough about what is on offer

Lack of career education. Many people don't realise what they can do with an arts degree, imbedding career education in the degree i think would help. This actually applies to all courses.

Cost, and online learning is awful

Probably the cost and accessibility, as well as lack of advertisement.

My course was removed from Utas. I needed a local study centre or online tertiary course so have continued studying in Hobart through another university.

Mainly diminishing staff numbers which puts a burden and those that are currently working and may impeded on quality of teaching

Perception that it is under resourced

I think it's the lack of job opportunities and a stable income for jobs.

Various factors I feel. Concerns about their future and whether they will be able to get a job, the workload and whether they feel they will be able to handle the pressure, not feeling like they will be supported.

UTAS is not thinking it's importance, then there will be less and less future students coming.

The rise of A.I and cooperate culture is something I head spoken of often. It suggests the arts and humanities are pointless, despite how untrue this sentiment is. Often people think the only way to be successful is climbing a corporate/office job ladder in carers like finance.

The lack of funding and general care about arts and humanities at UTAS by UTAS leadership.

The university isn't known for humanities and leadership don't seem to particularly care for these courses. (The teachers and unit coordinators are spectacular)

Management

Lack of advertisement

The generalised degree

Arts students often want a classic university experience and need to discuss topics with other student to learn (discussion is key to the Liberal Arts!) with contact hours so bringing lectures back would be helpful. Also cutting courses previously (eg Asian Studies) made a lot of folks my age worried that their courses would be cancelled halfway through their degree like it did to the students enrolled in Asian Studies so not gutting the Arts further would make students feel like they weren't taking a risk and send the message that the university values their degree (although it's a bit late for that now isn't it).

courses are predominantly on-line and oversubscribed

The word of the cuts have spread out of the Uni community so now it's probably causing future students to wonder if it's worth enrolling.

On going degrading of services

People don't think they can get jobs with arts degrees

UTAS cutting back and undervaluing these degrees. Why would a student enrol in UTAS for these degrees when consistently pushing the spotlight away from them.

The fact that the University is dramatically shifting away from providing student / community / creative spaces available to students

What would make UTAS a more attractive place to study Arts or Humanities?

Improving courses and the universities reputation

Invest in the arts and humanities, give more options and promote for non-arts students to study the arts/fine arts as electives, highlight, market and fund student work to bring more arts students to UTAS

Larger variety of units, investment in the arts

Unsure

Keep campus at sandy bay and have a myriad of supportive staff

Place more of an emphasis on the opportunities in our state in this area. So many people feel like they have no option but to move, they need to prove this wrong! We have so much talent that come from utas, we should proudly showcase it.

UTAS would get more students if they offered more arts opportunities, I had 4 of my friends move interstate for university due to the lack of options offered by UTAS

If they focused more on supporting their students and teachers and less on real-estate

More resources and support for staff, adequate staffing levels, proof that Utas gives a damn about her students

Visible art throughout campuses. Funding and renovation to the art school instead of new buildings to house new enrolments you supposedly aren't getting. Leave the student base alone, let them create and study in peace.

More valuable opportunities, and more funding.

Letting the people who know make decisions. More autonomy for the school so that experienced staff can make meaningful change. Happy staff on the ground to answer questions and help instead of the horrendous UTAS connect and the increased AI help. No one wants that. Better ties with the community. There are hundreds of kids finishing school in Hobart having completed multiple art subjects, if they saw UTAS are a vibrant fun choice that gave them community and offered interesting and engaging material they'd maybe consider it. Don't give them hats and pens give them actual human connection and support.

Tasmania is a place of art. It is a place of inspiration and passion. I think if UTAS really leaned into that and showed the potential opportunities that students could have while studying there it would become even more attractive.

If UTAS showed that they value these students just as much as those undertaking medicine or science I think it would encourage more students to pick UTAS.

I don't study at utas yet

More opportunities and actual running classes. I wanted to study French as a language class through the Arts & Humanities and I was unable to do so. Many other classes have been discontinued in this way. This turns off many prospective students.

Having a wider selection of courses

Community

Scholarships! Art residencies! Diversity!

Better support for the programs offered would mean that an interstate move isn't necessary for a quality education in the arts and humanities

Clear support for the arts. Students do not want to attend a university when they know that senior staff don't like or support their subject area. There needs to be real, consistent effort made to put funding back into the arts and make those programs appealing again. Arts was the heart of UTAS not so long ago, and it can get back there with just a little bit more effort and consultation with students and staff.

Get students to share what we love about this place on social media so the world can see us.

Don't move the campuses and don't cut funding. Giving people more opportunities, not less, is always going to gather students.

More options, sandy bay campus.

Facilitating the students. Less online classes where possible, and employing local lecturers instead of online classes with lectures who live interstate

As I mentioned, more interaction with industry and opportunities for students to gain employability through internships, career fairs, etc.

NA

People want to study these things, people want to pursue creative fields. I think marketing could be a big thing for the University to boost numbers, showing care for arts culture and desire to build it up within the state.

For me I would love to be able to do a full degree and not just a major. I want to know more about theatre and all its aspects - technical, skills, and the social implications of it

More in person classes, better student experience (i.e) high levels of engagement and opportunity.

More money and staff better and more diverse classes and better marketing

More of a sense of community whether you are online or studying in campus, more options to meet people. Not a building in the middle of the CBD.

more options and more care from the faculty — the tutors and lecturers are passionate and brilliant, but the higher ups show time and time again that they do not value the arts as a discipline

A vibrant arts/humanities faculty with a radical and engaged student & teacher population

UTAS supporting their courses and students the dedicating so much time and money towards them already.

If the University showcased the facilities available to students.

More investment for in-person experience and hands-on technical teaching. Also, more investment into industry collaborations wouldn't hurt.

Lowering fees and being more flexible in terms of student expectations

By providing a more enriched environment that favours arts and humanities a lot more than what they are now

Better funding. Quality learning just isn't cheap. Some things shouldn't be scrimped on.

The threat of not cutting course, and firing their staff.

Reduced cost and increased curriculum.

If they actually demonstrated a care for the Art and Humanities

Don't cut the budget. You need your teachers, you need your funding, and most of all you need to support the department. It's so obvious that the higher ups at UTAS do not care about the students in the arts, there's no transparency, the fact that they're doing this during exams makes this even more obvious.

interesting units that have direct links with workplaces to make students feel as though their course can help them further in life

more support and class options

More funding and more of an emphasis on creative expression

More advertising

Just put some more effort into helping our department grow. Rather than cutting staff, give us some more opportunities to go out in the world and expand the arts scene.

Increase in diversity in units - we have so many courses that just retract so if we diversify what we learn, more people will be interested

More graduate positions and financial support

More teachers that care about their field and the desire by the higher ups to hire new graduates into teaching positions.

I think if you were able to put effort into creating exciting courses, even if you do cut programs, and working with lecturers could potentially see interest develop more over time.

Encouragement of students who find the subject interesting or enjoyable to consider studying them at uni Advertisement?

General attention to it.

Provide more opportunities for students, listen to what they have to say

Employing more staff who are qualified and passionate artists in their respective mediums, and spending more money on making the arts and humanities school more competitive with VCA, NIDA, etc, and spending more money on marketing the arts and humanities school. It's already under-resourced, and more cuts will drive it further into the ground.

It is attractive without UTAS overreach. Great reputation and staff.

Use the history, resources, stories and opportunities to our advantage, localise and diversify the humanities and arts classes the same way you have done with marine and Antarctic sciences.

A cafe. Genuine elective choice within the visual arts. Not dumping us in with media and music. We are totally different. I really resent having to pay twice the price to study compulsory media units.

Future security - staff and facilities.

More options

More unit choices that cater to broad practices and mediums.

More care and investment from UTAS. Value your arts. They are integral to the fabric of community and joy. Good God.

Top down commitment to and investment in these disciplines. UTAS needs to find its way again, for example, why build the Hedberg onto the Theatre Royal only to make cuts to theatre? Managerialism has ripped the heart and soul out of the university.

A culture of more arts event in school and around in the community, and less emphasis on parties and balls as part of the student experience (I guess it's fine as a thing on its own but there doesn't seem to be much else on offer. All some students do in their spare time is drink, no joke.) An emphasis on Arts and culture around the University, even for those not enrolled in these courses, do free events and hands-on pop-up events (not just paint and sips or crafts, but also, live concerts on the spacious lawns on campus, outdoor movie nights in the AFL oval, local Australian/Tasmanian book sales + signings on campus, theatre events and poetry slams in lecture halls). A compulsory core unit requirement of ethics and critical

thinking across all UTAS courses regardless of faculty, so that students graduate being better thinkers for society, and less of a narrow-minded dunce. More funding for arts and humanities and enriching experiences such as exchange programs where you get to try stuff and meet people from other schools/countries. Artistic competitions such as poetry, essays, fine arts, photography, music that is open to all students, with publishing opportunities and prizes, which would showcase their talents.

If they at least tried to support all the subjects they offer. After looking at their 2023 financial statement they are struggling financially, but it feel likes they are not distrbuting funds so that they can try to keep quality in every degree

Continue to embrace and provide opportunity to those who are searching for it.

More diverse range of units (such as offering units in textile based arts, and expanding ceramics into an entire stream instead of just having one unit.

Fair budget for schools, campus etc, that isn't based off enrolment numbers. Rather money is put into the university not expecting a return, but a good university.

Investment in staff and face to face learning - more choice

Improved facilitates at Sandy Bay campus and certainty about the future.

More student culture and funding to support that. Less online classes and more in person classes available across all campuses. Online learning means that students don't make connections and feel isolated.

Keeping many option available to study available.

Less expensive course costs. One singular course costs the same as a semester of MTeach courses

Value it. Put money and time and money and energy from the leadership into it. Not just allowing for it to be a grassroots supported just by the teaching staff and other students

Promote more. While other fields have more than enough promotion in sciences, med, and engineering, arts subjects are pushed aside for the belief that they are less important degrees. Which to an extent the career paths after an Arts and Humanities degree is limited.

Additional Responses (June 6–17):

Show the range of career available after graduating.

not sure

Making it unique to Tasmania

More in person classes, reduce barriers like cost

Better advertisement, more flexible class arrangements.

The gradual move to the city happened a long time ago with study centers like Hunter Street for fine arts and architecture which needs to be returned to this campus from Launceston and strengthen ties to industry professional developments arts and humanities to solve important problems beyond just scientific

A change in attitude and increased value promoted for the arts

More life on campus - fully provision the arts buildings with energy and activations

If we can include more subjects that spread to a wider variety of interests.

Make it clear that there IS support for students, every step of the way. Highlighting that it is a diverse study area with all different kinds of people. More promotion (instead of just focusing on say, science)! Highlight student work showing what can be done!

More advertisement from the Uni to Tasmanian students about the opportunities already available for these students

Instead of cutting costs and teacher, increasing facilities (that we know utas has/could provide) would be attractive for students both in Tasmania and internationally. The teachers are passionate and willing to put in work, so let them.

Upgrading buildings and keeping the different arts subjects together at sandy bay. Investing more into them and not reducing educational opportunities and qualified staff.

Less courses online and a space for these students on the Inveresk campus.

Arts being appreciated

Funding so that people don't think they are entering a dying course
More streamlined and specialised degrees for each discipline

As above.

Acknowledging and honouring aboriginal culture and communities.

a move away from online lectures

Give it more funding and make it a nice space for students to study again.

creating a better student on campus experience

Having a greater diversity of classes

Knowing that they value students & staff, and that these degrees have a career pathway.

High quality accessible creative spaces for student communities to flourish in