

BIG lecture halls will be pulled down, long degrees broken up and millionaire entrepreneurs headhunted to teach at Brisbane's major universities as the traditional tertiary model is reinvented.

Entrepreneurship is a trending demand of future tertiary education, according to the Queensland University

of Technology, Griffith University, and the University of Queensland.

The prediction that big campuses would shrink due to mass online courses has not come to pass and instead they are expanding, with programs such as UQ's Entrepreneur in Residence.

The first entrepreneur is alumni Alborz Fallah, who sold his stake in a car advice

blog for \$35 million and will now mentor hundreds of others who go through the university's Ideas Hub.

"I am really excited about the potential. With my start-up experience and advice, I hope to see a few of these students turn their ideas into multimillion-dollar businesses," he said.

UQ Vice Chancellor Professor Peter Hoj said the

challenge was to expand the concept across all disciplines and give course credit for those involved.

At the same time, UQ will remodel big lecture halls into smaller group spaces and build its own \$250 million student accommodation.

"The goal is a situation where universities

focus on preparing students for success and resilience and where people return to universities, because change has happened, to find solutions," Prof Hoj said.

At Griffith University, the revolution includes flipping the designs of both buildings and learning.

Senior Deputy Vice Chancellor Professor Ned Pankhurst said instead of doing a degree on campus then heading off for work experience, people would visit campuses for experiences while learning would be done wherever students chose.

"Face-to-face experience is more important than ever and that's not us universities saying it, that's

Introducing paperless textbooks has taken weight off students' shoulders

ONE of Brisbane's oldest schools is leading the way with a completely paperless textbook program.

The 420 children at St James College in Spring Hill will provide insight into how schools might opt to ditch traditional books and go online.

The school's head of eLearning, Nikki Carpenter, said the move to laptop learning was driven by reducing costs and increasing opportunities for individual teaching.

For the cost of about one textbook, LearningField, managed by the Australian Copyright Agency, gives teachers

and students access to about 1300 e-textbooks.

Pages are interactive, linked to state and national curricula, and students can make notes to be shared as well as search content.

Ms Carpenter said it meant all students then have the same level of resources, and it cut down the number of books being lost or damaged.

"A teacher can have different groups of students in the same class reading from different levels depending on their ability or doing different science experiments," she said.

It also meant students do

not have to carry around weighty tomes.

"We don't want to go completely paperless or have technology for technology's sake but this is a way of giving all students access," Ms Carpenter said.

EMMALINE STIGWOOD

TECH SAVVY: Mackenzie Robson, 15, Isaac Cashman, 12, Igette Kalunga, 15, and Holly Barnes, 12, go paperless. Picture: Annette Dew



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