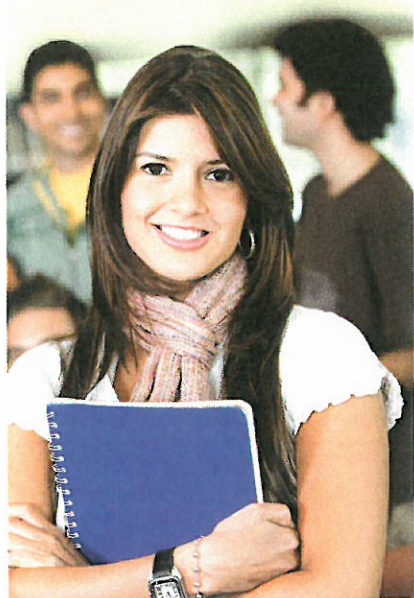


Factsheet for New University Students

An initiative of the Student and Staff Expectations and Experiences Project

BACKGROUND

- **Project aim:** To investigate the gaps between student expectations and experiences at university
- Over 16,300 students surveyed at universities in South Australia over 2010-2011
- A collaboration between the South Australian Universities
- Inform yourself about the realities and challenges of uni life



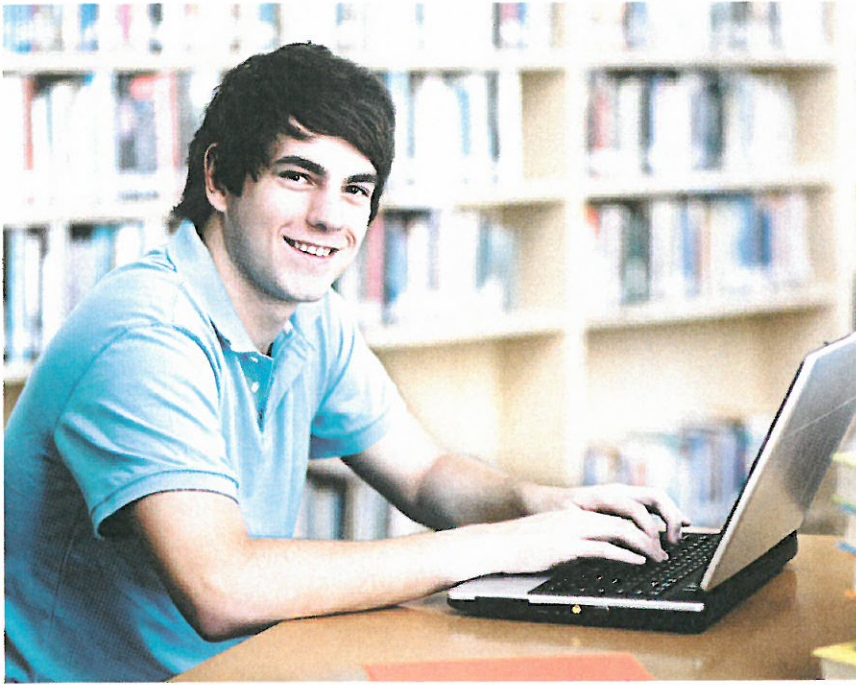
UNIVERSITY REQUIRES COMMITMENT

- 3/4 of new university students have unrealistic expectations about the amount of study they are expected to do at university
- The recommended amount of study at university is 6-10 hours per week per subject
- This is double what is expected of students at high school and is equivalent to a full time job

What does this mean for you?

- You will need to commit up to 40 hours a week to study (full-time)
- As an adult learner you will need to take the initiative, no one will be checking up on you to make sure you are keeping up with the work
- You will need to learn to manage your time and the newly found freedom

“Understanding that the key to being successful is only dependent on the amount of work you are prepared to put in. You do not have to be the smartest person to complete a degree but you do need to be committed and put in the effort”



DON'T BE AFRAID TO ASK FOR HELP & SUPPORT

- University tutors and lecturers have complex roles, typically spending less than half of their time teaching.
- This means less one on one time with individual students, less feedback given on assignments (30% received feedback on drafts) and longer time to return work (50% report 3-4 week turnaround)
- If you need help, talk to someone about it, 25% of students said that talking with university staff helped their decision to continue at university
- 80% of new students agree it is important to have a close group of friends for support at university

“Making friends within the first few days of orientation – (it was) important to have that support from the beginning. I know many people who have dropped programs just because they did not make friends from the beginning.”

What does this mean for you?

- If you feel like you need more feedback from university teaching staff, don't be afraid to ask for it
- Be prepared to seek feedback and support from other sources as well eg student support services, transition and advisory services, language /writing centre & online forums
- Go to Orientation activities (over 60% of students said these were useful or really useful)

LEARNING NEW SKILLS IS CRITICAL TO YOUR SUCCESS

- Just because you complete Year 12 doesn't mean you are fully prepared for university study
- 70% of students report that the standard of university work is different or extremely different to school work
- Our survey shows that only 45% of students felt that school adequately prepared them for university study

“Completing a year of study changed my outlook a bit as I felt like I had achieved something and that I could finish this degree. There was light at the end of the tunnel.”

What does this mean for you?

- You will need to adapt to a more independent learning style
- Be proactive in developing your study skills – go to university workshops to help you develop the skills to succeed, eg; research, analysis, writing and time management skills
- Keep up with the workload

STAY FOCUSED ON YOUR STUDIES

- Finding a balance between university, work, social life, family and other commitments is important
- Most first year students (75%) expect to be able to work and study but only 50% are able to
- Take care that other commitments don't impact on your studies, 45% of students had outside commitments that negatively affected their learning

“It was important for me to try and find a balance between university, work and my social life....if I have a balance I won't be rushing assignments and adding stress.”

What does this mean for you?

- Don't try to do too much on top of study! Balancing work, study and your social life is a challenge
- Prioritise study over other activities initially until you adjust to the expectations of university