Congratulations on accepting your offer and welcome to the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

Starting study at university is an important milestone in your life, and we want to make sure you feel well prepared.

As students in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, we understand that your first year of university can be daunting, but we encourage you to make the most of it.

We’ve collected our experiences and knowledge in this Guidebook. We hope you find it useful and wish you the best of luck with your studies.

Presented by Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences students Amelia Bush, Eloise Sgroi, Victor Ye, Alvin Chung, Louisa Dora Lemm, Catriona Stirrat, Petra Cranshure-Player, Lingling Zhang, Chara Chung, Theodora von Arnimm, Bernadette Pace, Dana Segall, Matthew Bennet, Jones King, Anh Thu Tiffany Nguyen, Vanessa Huang, Emily Lawrence and Ludmilla Nunell.
Choosing units of study and deciding majors

How to choose

Don’t worry about not being certain about the direction of your entire degree just yet.

First year is the time to experiment and try a range of different units of study that seem interesting. Later on you can decide which areas of study and majors you want to pursue.

Understanding units of study, credit points, majors and more

Not sure what exactly all these terms mean? The Arts and Social Sciences (Undergraduate) Handbook will tell you everything you need to know about your degree, including majors, units of study, credit points, core units, electives and more.

The Handbook is available online at: sydney.edu.au/handbooks/arts/

A typical full-time student will complete four units of study each semester, worth 6 credit points each, for a total of 48 credit points per year.

Changing Units of Study

It is still possible to enroll in new units of study until the end of Week 2 of semester.

You can change units by logging into Sydney Student at: sydneystudent.sydney.edu.au

Once you are logged in to Sydney Student, simply select “My Studies” and then “Change your units of study.”

The Census Date, which is the 31st of March in Semester 1 and the 31st of August in Semester 2, is another important date. It is the last day that you can drop a unit of study without financial penalty.

It is still possible, however, to drop units of study later in semester, but you will usually incur a financial and academic penalty. You can find out more here: sydney.edu.au/study/study-dates.html
Succeeding at university

Balancing your workload

Typically, full-time Arts and Social Sciences students have approximately 12 contact hours per week. For each subject you'll need to spend approximately 6 hours a week outside class preparing readings and working on assignments.

You'll also need to balance time for work, social activities, sleep, exercise and everything else in life. Take some time now to plan out your week. If your hours aren’t adding up, consider taking a reduced load or taking extra classes outside semester time.

Find your support group

One of the best ways to succeed at uni is by forming your support group. Your support group are people who believe in you and tell you that you can achieve.

If you already have supportive family members and friends from home, these people should form a core part of your support group. You’ll also want to add new friends and staff from uni to your support group.

It’s really common to be worried about not knowing anyone at uni. But really, most people are in the same boat.

There are so many different degrees, majors and units of study at the University of Sydney, which means that you probably won’t have anyone you know in your classes. This is a great opportunity to make new friends and contacts.

“Remember why you want to do this. Think about your hopes for the future, and how you think you’ll feel when you graduate from uni.

And then write it down, or tell the people in your support group.”

Maxine Williams
Bachelor of International and Global Studies
Making new friends at uni

Orientation and transition events such as the Mentoring Program, Undergraduate Welcome and Campus at Dusk are great places to meet other new students, form lifelong friendships and help you settle in.

You can find out more about what orientation events are on offer here: orientation.sydney.edu.au

Lectures and tutorials are also great places to make new friends. Just turn to the person in the seat next to you and say hello. It’s most likely they’ll also be relieved to know someone in their classes.

Get connected on social media: facebook.com/FASS.StudentAffairs/

Another great tip is to attend events for student clubs and societies. Most people are there to make new friends with similar interests.

You can find out more here: usu.edu.au

Up-skill your writing, maths and organisational abilities

There’s a lot that’s different about study at a University level when compared to High School.

That’s why the University of Sydney offers free tutoring and workshops for students on things like writing, maths, study skills and more.

The Learning Centre

Enrol in free workshops on topics like essay writing, effective note-taking, planning an assignment, writing in an academic style, procrastination and time management, and more: sydney.edu.au/stuserv/learning_centre

The Writing Hub

Drop in to receive one-on-one writing help: sydney.edu.au/arts/writing_hub/

The Mathematics Learning Centre

Drop in to get one-on-one support with maths in your units of study: sydney.edu.au/stuserv/maths_learning_centre/
Support when you need it

Lecturers, tutors and Academic Undergraduate Student Advisors

Whatever you need help with, there is someone at the uni whose role it is to be there for you. Your first point of contact for questions about content or Units of Study is your lecturer or tutor.

If you would like advice about your degree, we have a dedicated team of Academic Undergraduate Student Advisors whose role it is to support you. They are senior academics who are experts in your field of study and can be contacted here: sydney.edu.au/arts/current_students/undergraduate/student_advisor.shtml

Student Centre

If you have questions about any administration issues (including enrolment, timetables, exams, Opal cards and transcripts) then the Student Centre is your best point of contact. Simply call them on 1800 SYD UNI or drop in to the Jane Foss Russell Building to reach them.

Health and Wellbeing Services

The University offers free counselling and psychological services to all students through CAPS. Find out more here: sydney.edu.au/students/counselling-and-mental-health-support.html

We also have a range of other health services on campus including a doctor’s office, dentist, pharmacy, optometrist, physiotherapist and more.

Students with disability can access support through Disability Services. Find out more here: sydney.edu.au/study/academic-support/disability-support.html

SRC

The SRC offers free advice and advocacy from qualified experts on issues like academic honesty, academic progression, accommodation rights, legal matters, Centrelink matters and more: srcusyd.net.au
Each degree offered in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences has at least one Academic Undergraduate Student Advisor assigned to it.

Send your Academic Undergraduate Student Advisor an email requesting a meeting or telephone call in advance.

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<tr>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Academic UG Student Advisors</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor of Arts</td>
<td>Dr Eleanor Cowan</td>
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<tr>
<td>School of Philosophical and Historical Inquiry (SOPHI)</td>
<td>Dr Brian Hedden Dr Anthea Taylor Dr Andres Rodriguez Dr Ted Robinson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor of Arts (Languages)</td>
<td>Dr Xiaohuan Zhao Dr Sean Moores Dr Giorgia Alu Dr Seiko Yasumoto Associate Professor Marie Therese-Barbaux</td>
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<tr>
<td>School of Languages and Cultures (SLC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bachelor of Arts: (Media and Communications)</td>
<td>Dr Nick Riemer Dr Keith Broadfoot</td>
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<tr>
<td>School of Literature Art and Media (SLAM)</td>
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<td>Bachelor of Economics</td>
<td>Dr Suraj Prasad</td>
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<tr>
<td>School of Economics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bachelor of Political, Economic and Social Sciences</td>
<td>Dr Gaynor Macdonald Dr John Brookfield Dr Fiona Gill Dr Joe Collins Dr Gareth Bryant</td>
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<td>School of Social and Political Sciences (SSPS)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bachelor of International and Global Studies</td>
<td>Professor Dirk Moses</td>
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What’s on offer?

University Student Union (Clubs and Societies)
www.usu.edu.au

With over 200 clubs and societies across 9 categories to choose from, there’s bound to be something that appeals to you and it’s a great way to meet people and connect with people outside your area of study. There are clubs for all sorts of interests, such as:

- Arts and Performance
- Degree-Related
- Faith and Religion
- Food and Beverage
- Ethno-Cultural
- Humanitarian
- Political
- Sport
- Just for Fun

Sydney Arts Student Society (SASS)

SASS is the foremost society for Arts and Social Science faculty students, providing a vibrant experience and dynamic opportunities for all our members. SASS caters for the diversity of students’ interests with an exciting social agenda, engaging career opportunities, weekly sporting competitions, the opportunity to contribute to publications including our annual literary journal, and ultimately allowing FASS students to better connect with the Arts community within and outside of academia.
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
Student Affairs and Engagement

The Student Affairs and Engagement team is here to support you throughout your studies. We run a range of programs to support your academic, professional and personal success.

During your Orientation at O-Week, be sure to join the Mentoring Program, and attend your Undergraduate Welcome and Campus at Dusk events:
orientation.sydney.edu.au

We run a number of other programs for students during the year, including our Student Representative Program and Therapaws: Dog Therapy Program. Keep an eye on our Facebook page to keep up to date:
facebook.com/FASS.StudentAffairs

You can also ask us any questions you have about any aspect of uni. Just drop in to see us in Room 320, Brennan MacCallum Building, message us on social media, or send us an email at:
fass.studentaffairsandengagement@sydney.edu.au

Your Mentor

If you joined the Mentoring Program during O-Week, remember that your Mentor will also be there for you throughout the first month of uni.

“Apart from friends and family, staff at the uni are also there to be your support group.

If you aren’t sure who to speak to, the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Student Affairs and Engagement team is a great first point of contact.”

Ben Grace
Bachelor of International and Global Studies
Tips for international students

Welcome to Sydney!

Making the choice to move to a brand new country can be really scary. It is important to know you’re not alone! As international students ourselves, we know how it feels and are here to give you some tips on making the most of your experience at the University of Sydney.

Exploring your new home

Each day is an opportunity to learn something new. Take the time to immerse yourself in Sydney’s CBD, beaches and culture.

Getting involved in clubs and societies on campus is a great way to find out more about your new home. There are many different clubs and societies you could join, depending on your interests, like the Bushwalking Society which runs regular day walks through national parks in and outside of Sydney, or Unimates which holds regular social events for international students to meet new friends. usu.edu.au

Conquer language barriers

Language barriers can be tough. Don’t be afraid to keep practicing, because that is the only way you can improve.

The uni has heaps of resources to help you practice.

Check out the USU’s Language Exchange Program, which gives you the opportunity to learn English while teaching an English-speaking student your language. usu.edu.au

The Learning Centre offers free workshops tailored to international students to help you with assessment tasks like essays and presentations. sydney.edu.au/stuserv/learning_centre
Creating your support network

The International Student Lounge provides support, guidance and a place to hang out with other international students. You can find the lounge on Level 4 of the Wentworth Building. usu.edu.au/international

There are also many different clubs and societies dedicated to particular cultures, which are a great way to meet other people from home. For example, we have the Chinese Culture Society, German Kultur Klub, Spanish & Latin American Society and many more. usu.edu.au

We also encourage you to branch out and join any clubs and societies that interest you. A great way to find out when events are on is to follow the clubs and societies that interest you on Facebook, read your Student eNewsletters and check out usu.edu.au Clubs and societies always welcome new members so don’t be afraid to get involved.

Special Consideration

While you are studying there may be circumstances or essential commitments that impact your academic performance. Our special consideration and special arrangements process is there to support you in these situations. Go to the following link to find out more: sydney.edu.au/students/special-consideration-and-arrangements

Stay connected

Be sure to check your university email address frequently. You’ll be sent regular Student eNewsletters which contain important info about academic issues, social events, extra-curricular activities and more. You’ll also receive important messages from your lecturers about class.

Finding a job

Financially supporting yourself through university can be challenging, especially in a new country. The Careers Centre has a range of free online and in-person resources, such as information handouts on job seeking for international students. sydney.edu.au/careers

If you are concerned about your employment situation, the SRC offers free, confidential legal support on issues like employment and immigration. They also offer a solicitor who speaks Cantonese, Mandarin and Japanese. srcusyd.net.au/src-legal-service/

Don’t be afraid to ask for help

Above all, we encourage you to ask for help as soon as you need it. Don’t wait for a problem to become huge before you reach out! The Student Affairs and Engagement team is a great first point of contact if you need help. Contact them at: fass.studentaffairsandengagement@sydney.edu.au
Extra-curricular opportunities

Find your niche and meet new people

Many students don’t realise just how many extra-curricular opportunities are available at the University of Sydney. These opportunities can help you build an amazing career, make new friends, stay healthy, deal with stress and have fun.

Don’t feel nervous about getting involved. You usually don’t need any previous experience or connections. You just need to get out there.

The University of Sydney Union

The University of Sydney Union (USU) has over 200 student clubs and societies that cater to a range of interests such as your degree, area of study, hobbies, sport, culture, religion and more.

O-Week is the perfect time to speak to the students who run them! You can check out their stalls along Eastern Avenue. If you don’t make it to O-Week, you can still join at any time. Check out the USU website and follow any clubs and societies that interest you on Facebook to stay updated on events.

usu.edu.au

“Finding the perfect balance between University, socialising, and work life can be difficult but so rewarding in the end.

Focusing all of your energy on University work can result in burn out.

Giving yourself time off and maintaining a social life will balance your time and energy, so your productivity can remain consistent throughout the course of the semester.”

Bernadette Pace
Bachelor of Education / Bachelor of Arts
Planning your future

One of the best things about an Arts and Social Sciences degree is that there are limitless future career options.

We know that when there are limitless options, it can be difficult to decide what is right for you. It’s important to recognise that you don’t have to know yet, and you’re in the right place to figure it out.

The ArtSS Career-Ready Program

The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences offers paid placements, careers workshops and networking events for our students through the ArtSS Career-Ready program.

Paid placements are a great way to gain valuable experience in the workforce and earn money whilst studying. They typically start in your second year at uni.

A great way to start preparing is by enrolling in the ArtSS Career-Ready workshop program in your first year. You’ll also want to start building your resume, through a combination of academic achievements, student leadership and part-time work.

Keep up to date with ArtSS Career-Ready via your Student eNewsletters. You can also find out more here: sydney.edu.au/arts/careers

Career opportunities

“As an Intern Analyst at Allianz, I gained corporate contacts and skills and experience in research, market testing, user experience and more.

After completing my internship, I was offered additional part-time work and a place in the Allianz Graduate Program.”

Alexandria Siegers
ArtSS Career-Ready Placement at Allianz

The Careers Centre

You also have access to the Careers Centre where you can receive one-on-one advice about planning your future career, access online careers planning resources and attend skills workshops, networking events and more.

The Careers Centre also has a large jobs database which advertises casual work, internships, graduate programs and volunteer opportunities: sydney.edu.au/careers
Study Abroad and Student Exchange

We also have over 270 programs for our students wanting to study overseas as part of their degree.

See the world and visit a dream destination.

Hone your language skills and immerse yourself in a new culture.

Make lifelong friends.

Discover confidence and a sense of independence that you never knew you had.

Get credit towards your degree.

[link](sydney.edu.au/study/study-abroad-and-student-exchange.html)

Lost on campus?

StudentVIP has got you covered with their extensive maps and directions for finding all those tricking rooms on your first day. Check out their website or download the app!

[link](studentvip.com.au/usyd/main/maps)
“Getting ready for your first day at Sydney Uni? Not sure what you need to do or where to get started? We’ve created a checklist on everything you need to do to get prepared for your first day of classes.”

Shumi Ruan
Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Laws

Konrad Ryzak
Bachelor of Arts (Media and Communications)

Starting Uni Checklist

☐ Get your timetable from the eLearning website. Make sure to rearrange your classes and lectures to times that suit your other commitments.

☐ Check your Unit of Study Outlines for each subject on the eLearning website. Read through and add any assessment due dates to your calendar.

☐ Set your uni email up on your phone so you don’t miss any important messages from your lecturers or the uni.

☐ Attend O-Week and join a student society that interests you.

☐ Pack your bags for your first class. Make sure you bring something for taking notes, as well as any lecture notes you have been given on eLearning.

If you’ve checked all this list off, congratulations: you are now ready to start uni. We wish you all the best with your studies.