





The University of Sydney



# *Welcome*

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**Dr Michael Paton  
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The University of Sydney



# Staying on Track Undergraduate Information Session

University of Sydney  
Learning Centre

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## Outline

- Key problem areas for students
  - Learning Centre resources which can help
  - Brief profile of the Learning Centre
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# Key Problem Areas for Students

- Time Management:
    - Setting goals
    - Using planners
      - example: semester planner
    - Juggling priorities
      - study vs non-study
      - different study tasks (exercise next slide)
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# Exercise on Juggling Priorities

You have just completed a task and have 45 minutes left for private study today. You look at the tasks you listed with their time estimates and priority rankings and you must decide quickly which one to tackle. Which one would you choose and why?

	<b>Time Estimate</b>	<b>Priority</b>
1. Write the introduction to your report/essay	45 mins	3
2. Read a chapter of your text book	1.5 hrs	1
3. Write a summary of your lecture notes	20 mins	2
4. Go to the library and borrow a book	20 mins	2

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# Key Problem Areas for Students

- Concentration Loss and Procrastination:
  - Understanding reasons
  - Strategies for improvement





# Key Problem Areas for Students

- Essay Writing:
    - Interpreting essay questions
    - Analysing ideas
    - Structuring the essay
    - Developing an argument
    - Using evidence
    - Avoiding plagiarism
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# Key Problem Areas for Students

- Academic English:
    - Writing clearly
    - Writing in an academic style
    - Grammatical correctness
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## Resources which can Help

- Academic Writing Workshops:
    - Essay Writing
    - Quoting, Summarising and Paraphrasing
    - Writing in an Academic Style
    - Clearer Writing
    - Grammar for Academic Study (I and II)
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# Resources which can Help

- Studying at University Workshops:
    - Managing Time
      - Using planners
    - Concentration and Procrastination
    - Preparation for Exams
      - Practice for MCQ exams
      - Practice for essay exams
      - Practice for short answer exams
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## Other Learning Resources

- Booklets: Self Study Series
    - Skills for Essay Writing
    - The Reflective Student
    - How to Write a Laboratory Report
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# Other Learning Resources

- Online resources:
    - Clearer Writing (interactive)
    - WriteSite (interactive)
    - Links to other sites
    - Resources for downloading
      - Guidelines for Referencing
      - Skills for Essay Writing series
      - Report Writing in the Sciences
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# SWOT: LEARNING TO LEARN

## Lecture Series

- Strategies for Successful Learning
  - Successful Essay Writing in First Year
  - Lectures and How to Use them
  - Collaborative Learning: a strategy for success
  - Developing Critical Thinking Skills
  - Successful Report Writing in First Year
  - Learning about Plagiarism and How to Avoid it
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## Who are we?

- We are an academic centre
  - Our services are available to all enrolled students at this university
  - Our central workshops and individual learning programs are free of charge
  - Our objectives are to facilitate and develop student learning
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## 2009 Workshop Program: Semester 2

- August/September Program  
10 August - 4 September  
(Online registration: Mon 3 August)
  - October Program (including exam preparation)  
6 - 16 October  
(Online registration: Mon 28 September)
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## How to find us

### Learning Centre

Level 7, Education Building, Manning Road

Phone: 9351 3853

Fax: 9351 4865

Email: [learningcentre@usyd.edu.au](mailto:learningcentre@usyd.edu.au)

Website: <http://www.usyd.edu.au/lc>

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# International Office

Samira Al-Far

April Morley

Kirsten Saur

International Student Advisers



# International Students & Visa Issues

## Mandatory Conditions for All Student Visa Holders

### Include:

- § Satisfactory Academic Progress
- § Remain enrolled in a full time load (except when you have permission from your faculty)
- § Notify the University of Current Address

*There may be implications for your student visa if you continue to be identified as a student at risk.*



## International Student Advisers

- § Provide Support to International Students on Visa, Academic, Enrolment and Scholarship Issues
- § Refer Students to Support Services On and Off Campus
- § Advise on DIAC Procedures
- § Interview At Risk Students
- § Process and Advise on Student Visa Extensions and Permission to Work
- § Send International Student Updates – 3x Sem



# How to Contact the International Student Advisers

Samira Al-Far, April Morley, and Kirsten Saur

International Office, Jane Foss Russell Building,  
G02

- § E-mail enquiries
- § Individual Appointments
- § Front counter enquiries

Email: [studentadvisers@io.usyd.edu.au](mailto:studentadvisers@io.usyd.edu.au)



# SRC HELP

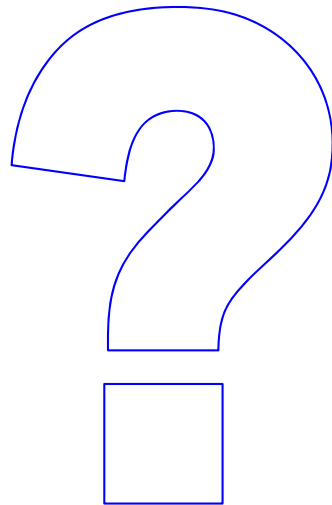
## Independent Advice & Advocacy

Tel: **9660 5222**

Email: **help@src.usyd.edu.au**

Web: **www.src.usyd.edu.au**

**Level 1, Wentworth Building**



Identify why you have not performed as well as you could have.

- Personal
- Academic



## Are you in the right course?

- Wrong course, this is not what I was expecting.
- It's not my choice, my parents want me to do this.



## Balancing work and study

Can't afford to live.

Paying off debts.

Working.





- Personal illness, stress & depression.
- Broke up with partner.
- Ongoing grief.
- Death in the family or family member's illness or stress.



**Remember SPECIAL CONSIDERATION  
and the usual 7 day deadline.**

Also, make contact with Counselling or the  
International Student Support Unit  
and/or Disability Services.



## MOVING FORWARD WITH YOUR STUDIES

Be realistic & fair to yourself

*Q: How can I definitely pass everything from now on?*

Reduced load or Time off?

Different major or different subjects?



## TIPS for successful study



1. **Overloading is not your friend.**
2. **Approach subjects you are doing for the 2nd time as if you are doing them for the 1st time.**
3. **Manage your time**
4. **Ask for help as soon as a problem arises**  
Faculty, Learning Centre, Counselling, ISSU,  
Disability Services, Financial Assistance, SRC.



# SRC HELP

- \* Centrelink
- \* Accommodation Rights & Tips
- \* Academic Appeals & Special consideration
- \* Plagiarism
- \* Discontinuing/Withdrawing
- \* Students with a Disability
- \* Harassment and Discrimination
- \* Work rights
- \* Show Cause and exclusion appeals



# SRC HELP

## Independent Advice & Advocacy

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**Level 1, Wentworth Building**



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# ***Staying on Track for Academic Success***

**Presented by  
Services for Students**

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## Who are we?

- CS= Counselling Service
  - ISSU = International Student Support Unit
  - Professionally qualified psychologists
  - Experienced in working with students from different cultures and language backgrounds.
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## What do we do?

- We help students
    - Cope with the challenges of living and studying in the Uni environment
    - Achieve a rewarding and enjoyable student experience
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## How do we do this?

- By providing
    - Individual, free confidential counselling
    - ISSU services are also available to family members
    - Other support services include:
      - Workshops, online information,
      - Information and welfare advice
-



## Why now?

- Resource/stress overload
  - Unexpected difficulties
  - Study skills challenges
  - Health problems
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## Why now?

- For international students
    - New culture and environment
    - Foreign language
    - New approach to study
    - Visa/immigration/ESOS requirements
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## Ways to make things worse

- Overloading in an effort to catch up
  - Trying to forget experiences in unsuccessful semesters, not learning from mistakes and possibly associated wishful thinking
  - Assuming repeating a subject will be easier
  - Isolating self from other students
  - Skipping classes & convincing self course can be self taught
  - Not seeking help & not talking to others about real experience of university
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## Ways to make things better

- Seek help early and, if necessary, regularly
- Create flexible plans & make uni a high priority
- View mistakes as a basis for positive learning
- Services for Students offer many services to help you succeed at university

[www.usyd.edu.au/stuserv](http://www.usyd.edu.au/stuserv)

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## Where are we?

- Level 5

Jane Foss Russell Bld, City Rd  
(next to Wentworth)

**Counselling Service: 8627 8433**

[counsell@stuserv.usyd.edu.au](mailto:counsell@stuserv.usyd.edu.au)

**ISSU: 8627 8437**

[info@issu.usyd.edu.au](mailto:info@issu.usyd.edu.au)

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# Attendance

- To confirm that you have reviewed the Staying on Track presentation, listened to the podcast and are aware of the services available to you within the University, please send an email to: [kelly.miles@usyd.edu.au](mailto:kelly.miles@usyd.edu.au)

In the email, please include your:

First name

Last name

SID

Faculty

- Please only register if you are part of the Student at Risk program. Your Faculty will be notified that you have done so.
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