What is this thing called university?

Presented by
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Academic Enrichment – Learning Centre and Mathematics Learning Centre
Outline of content

This presentation will discuss...

1. Some perspectives on university
2. Some important terms
3. University compared to school & academic expectations
4. The steps to succeeding in first year
5. Where to get more information
What is this thing called university?

University of Bologna  1088 – Community of scholars

Practical or goal oriented perspective
A place to get a degree – first step to building a career
What is this thing called university?

Developmental, life-experience perspective

• University can be a place for personal transformation

• For school-leavers – opportunity for freedom, curiosity, experimentation, key friendships

• For mature-age students – opportunity for starting a fresh chapter

• For many people, university is assumed to be a normal step in the path from childhood to independence

• For other people, university represents a new frontier: an experience which hasn’t been available to others in the family before – an important responsibility
Why are you here?

3 minutes

Introduce yourself to the person next to you:

At the moment, what are the 3 most important things for you about being at university?
Some important terms
Some important terms

- **Faculty or school**: A faculty (eg Science or Arts) or school (eg Law or Business) is responsible for administering all the courses in a particular subject area. It mainly comprises academic staff and is headed by a Dean.

- **Central portfolios**: the library, Academic Enrichment, student services like counselling and careers, The Student Centre; and also control central policy, finance, marketing, buildings, IT, staffing.

- **Unit of study**: This is an individual subject that you study as part of your degree. It is the smallest stand-alone component of a course that can be recorded on your transcript.

- **Credit point**: The value that each single unit of study contributes towards course completion requirements. Each semester, a full-time student usually enrolls in 24 credit points (48 per year).

- **Prerequisite**: A prerequisite is a specific unit of study that you need to complete before you can take another unit.
Academic expectations
Academic expectations

Compared with high school, university students:

- receive less guidance
- have more autonomy
- have more distant, impersonal relationships with teachers and the university or faculty
- have larger, more irregular workloads
- have to deal with more implicit expectations ...
Academic expectations

Some of the main implicit expectations of ‘uni’ students:

- you know how to find and use the right information
- you can read and write analytically and persuasively
- you know the right academic genre for each assignment
- you can manage a large and irregular workload
- you will attend lectures and submit assignments on time
- you motivate yourself
- you make your own decisions about how to learn
- you will seek help & advice when you need it
- you will behave with academic honesty (correct referencing, fair group work and no plagiarism)
Steps to success in first year
Steps to success in first year

Think of one thing you can do make your first week at uni a success
Steps to success in first year

1. Enrol in your degree
   (Weeks 1-2)

2. Read the faculty handbook, look at the Careers Centre site and choose your units of study (UoS). Note any prerequisites in later years.
   (Weeks 1-2)

3. Go to the lectures for a few different units of study to choose the best one. Change your enrolment if necessary. Note the important cut-off dates.
   (Weeks 1-2)

4. Carefully read the UoS outlines and plan the due dates for all semester 1 assessments.
   (Week 1)

5. Make a friend in each of your units of study who you can discuss assessment tasks and reading with.
   (Weeks 1-2)
Steps to success in first year

Make sure you have all the skills you need for all assessments – or go to the Maths Learning Centre or a Learning Centre workshop
(Weeks 2-7)

Go to all lectures and tutorials each week. Check MyUni and your uni email address each day.
(Weeks 2-13)

Discuss readings, lectures and assignments with a friend each week
(Weeks 2-13)

Ask for help or advice as soon as something unexpected happens:
e.g. Injury or illness? … Talk to Disability Services and ask for Special Consideration if appropriate

Complete and submit all assignments and exams – Check online in Sydney Student for your final results
Panel discussion: Top tips for success at university
Where to get more information
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>For information about …</th>
<th>Go to …</th>
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<tr>
<td>Your degree structure</td>
<td>Your faculty office</td>
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<td>Enrolment or fees</td>
<td>The Student Centre</td>
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<td>Your skills and how to build them</td>
<td>The Learning Centre</td>
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<td>Maths Learning Centre</td>
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<td>How to find readings and use the library</td>
<td>Fisher Library</td>
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<td>University email and IT resources</td>
<td>ICT Helpdesk</td>
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<tr>
<td>Help with careers, counselling, money, etc.</td>
<td>Student Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Content of a specific unit of study</td>
<td>Log onto your unit of study Learning</td>
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<td>Management System (LMS)</td>
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<td>Go to your discipline/school/department</td>
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<td>office</td>
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<td>Independent student advice &amp; help</td>
<td>Students’ Representative Council (SRC) or</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sydney Uni Postgrads Representative</td>
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<td>Association (SUPRA)</td>
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<td>Clubs, sports or societies</td>
<td>University of Sydney Union (USU)</td>
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For contact details and more information about all the above, go to [sydney.edu.au](http://sydney.edu.au) and click on [Current students](http://sydney.edu.au) in the black banner at the top.
Where to find the PLAs

The Quarter
Mon-Fri 10am-9pm, Sat 11am-4pm

Bosch Commons
Mon-Fri 11am-2pm

ThinkSpace
Mon-Fri 11am-7pm

Dentistry Library
Mon-Fri 11am-7pm

Camden Commons
Mon-Fri 11am-2pm
Contacting the Learning Centre or Maths Learning Centre

Learning Centre
Level 7 Email: learning.centre@usyd.edu.au
Education Building Web: www.sydney.edu.au/lc
Manning Road Phone: 9351 3853

Maths Learning Centre
Level 1 Email: mlc.enquiries@sydney.edu.au
Room 177 Web: sydney.edu.au/mlc
Carslaw building Phone: 9351 4061/5796
Coming soon

Learning Centre Workshops 2017

- March Program
  20 March – 5 May
- Register online from: Monday 13 March
  sydney.edu.au/lc

Maths Learning Centre Programs 2017

- Information will be given about MLC programs in your lectures in Week 1 or Week 2 – don’t be late
Closing

- For a copy of these slides or other orientation lecture notes, go to sydney.edu.au/lc and click on Resources
Evaluation

Fill in a paper survey and put it in the yellow box provided OR

Go to socrative.com