

What's the jargon?

What do all those words and expressions mean?

When you start something new there are often words and phrases that are unfamiliar. University is no different. What's all that jargon?

Just for fun, why not test yourself in our short quiz?

As you work through it you'll find lots of useful information.



1. What's matriculation?

- a. My first meeting with a Programme Leader to discuss my academic schedule
 - b. A time slot in Week One where I officially register as a University student, confirm fee payments and collect my student card
 - c. An event where I register for various University clubs and societies.
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2. What's a trimester?

- a. A shorter version of a semester
 - b. The official term for a three year degree
 - c. A 15-week teaching block. The academic year at Edinburgh Napier University is divided into three trimesters.
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3. What's a faculty?

- a. A form of assessment where I speak about my written work
 - b. A division or branch of learning at a college or University
 - c. Another name for a campus.
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4. What does my uni email address look like?

- a. myfullname@napier.ac.uk, e.g. janebrown@napier.ac.uk
 - b. myinitials@live.napier.ac.uk, e.g. jb@live.napier.ac.uk
 - c. mymatriculationnumber@live.napier.ac.uk, e.g. 12345678@live.napier.ac.uk
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5. Where can I find 24 hour computing facilities?

- a. At the Jack Kilby Computing Centre, Merchiston Campus
- b. In the Younger Suite, Craiglockhart Campus

- c. In the library at Comely Bank Campus.
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6. What's Blackboard?

- a. A board lecturers write on with chalk
 - b. Where I matriculate online and get my exam results
 - c. An online environment to support learning, teaching and assessment.
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7. What's a module?

- a. A self-contained unit of learning, generally worth around 20 credits
 - b. A programme of study
 - c. A practical workshop.
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8. How do I avoid plagiarism?

- a. By completing all my course assessments on time
 - b. By ensuring my work is my own, and that other people's work and ideas are clearly referenced
 - c. By returning my library books in time so I don't get fined.
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9. What's the name of a small class, led by a tutor, where students can talk through coursework?

- a. Seminar
 - b. Tutorial
 - c. A class test.
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10. What's a dissertation?

- a. The award I receive when I pass my course successfully

What's the jargon?

- b. A long written assignment, produced after completing a piece of research
 - c. A special type of written exam in year four.
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11. Where can I access the Library Catalogue?

- a. Only from the Merchiston campus Library
 - b. Only from the Library on any Edinburgh Napier University campus
 - c. Anywhere, at any time, from the Library website
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12. How can C&IT Services help me?

- a. By moving me onto another course if I've made the wrong choice
 - b. By providing technical support for all my computing needs at University
 - c. By providing learning support when I need help with coursework.
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13. Who are the Programme Representatives?

- a. Students from each year of every course, elected to represent students on staff and student committees
 - b. Staff from my course who represent students on University committees
 - c. People who invigilate at my final exams
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14. What's ISAS, and what can it do for me?

- a. Change my email password
 - b. Help me choose the most exciting modules
 - c. Provide a wide range of support and advice.
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15. Can you name two sources of support or guidance with your coursework at University?

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Now go to the answers on the next page...

Answers

1. What's matriculation?

Matriculation may sound complicated, but all it involves is some simple form filling and collecting your student (or matriculation) card. You will need this to prove you are student, and to join the University library.

Freshers Fayre, which is held during Freshers Week, is an opportunity for you to discover and sign up to the many and varied clubs and societies that are on offer to students.

Your Programme Leader or Personal Tutor (sometimes called PDT or Personal Development Tutor) will invite you to a meeting soon after you start. It is important that you go along, have a chat and get a chance to meet each other and discuss the course.

2. What's a trimester?

A trimester is a 15-week teaching block. The academic year at Edinburgh Napier University runs from late September until mid September the following year, with the year split into three 15-week teaching blocks, or trimesters. Most undergraduate students only attend classes for the first two of these trimesters. However Nursing and Midwifery students also attend during Trimester 3.

3. What's a faculty?

The answer we are looking for is a division or branch of learning at a college or University. Edinburgh Napier University has three Faculties:

- Faculty of Engineering, Computing and Creative Industries
- Faculty of Health, Life and Social Sciences
- Edinburgh Napier University Business School

Do you know which faculty you'll be studying in?

4. What does my uni email address look like?

Your email address is made up of your matriculation number and @live.napier.ac.uk, e.g. 12345678@live.napier.ac.uk. You can find your matriculation number on your student (matriculation) card.

5. Where can I find 24 hour computing facilities?

The Jack Kilby Computing Centre at Merchiston Campus is a 500-seat computer lab, open 24 hours a day and seven days a week.

6. What's Blackboard?

Blackboard is an online learning environment used to support teaching, learning and assessment. Modules make use of Blackboard in a variety of different ways. Your programme or module leaders will explain how it is being used, and what is expected of you. If you are unsure about anything, ask your module leader.

7. What's a module?

A module is a self-contained unit of learning designed to meet specific learning objectives, generally worth around 20 credits. A full time undergraduate programme consists of six modules in each academic year, planned to develop and build on your learning as you progress in your studies. Many programmes also include "elective" modules, to allow you to study an area of particular interest to you.

8. How do I avoid plagiarism?

Plagiarism means taking credit for the work done by others - whether purposely or inadvertently. It is viewed as a serious academic offence. To avoid plagiarism, you must ensure that all your work is your own, and that the work and ideas of others are clearly referenced.

9. What's the name of a small class, led by a tutor, where students can talk through coursework?

A small class led by a tutor is a tutorial. Seminars and tutorials are both chances for students to discuss their ideas, or topics covered in class and coursework. In seminars, which are a little more formal than tutorials, students usually prepare a short presentation to discuss with the group.

10. What's a dissertation?

In a later year of your course you may be asked to complete a dissertation. A dissertation is a long written report of about 12,000 words, worth up to 40 credits. It gives you the opportunity to independently research an area of particular interest to you, and to develop and demonstrate your organisational, management and research skills.

11. Where can I access the Library Catalogue?

The Library website gives students direct access to the online Library Catalogue, plus a variety of online databases and services, which you can access from anywhere, at any time. You can also access the catalogue from the Library on any Edinburgh Napier University campus.

12. Who are C&IT Services and how can they help me?

C&IT Services help with all aspects of the University's communications and information technology, including telephones, computer hardware and software.

13. Who are the Programme Representatives?

The Programme Representatives are students from every year of every course who are elected by other students to represent their classmates on staff and student committees.

14. What's ISAS, and what can it do for me?

The Independent Student Advice Service (ISAS) is an advice service for individual students that is professional, confidential, non-judgmental and non-directive. It is part of the Students' Association, not the University. The Students' Association can help with a range of issues including funding, finance and budgeting, housing and tenancy rights, University regulations, employment, immigration, complaints, etc.

15. Can you name two sources of support or guidance with your coursework at University?

Edinburgh Napier University offers a wide range of help and support to students, including Programme Leaders, Module Leaders, Lecturers, Personal Tutors, Academic Support Advisers, Student Mentors, Student Advisers.

And don't forget your fellow students!

So, how did you do?

Head spinning? Still a bit unclear? Don't worry. You'll find most of the information you need in your student handbook or online. At the start of term you may get information overload, but later take some time to read your programme handbook and become familiar with WebCT.

Coming to university can be an intimidating and uncertain time, but there is always someone who can help!

And don't be put off by the jargon. If you don't understand just ask!

Niki says

"After finishing school I took two gap years and worked full-time. I thought it would be hard getting back into studying, but it was all fine, once I settled in."