

What's uni study like?

Study at uni is both exciting and challenging. How will it be different from school or college? How will you get started?

Why not try this activity to compare your thoughts with our advice, and hear tips from recent uni students?

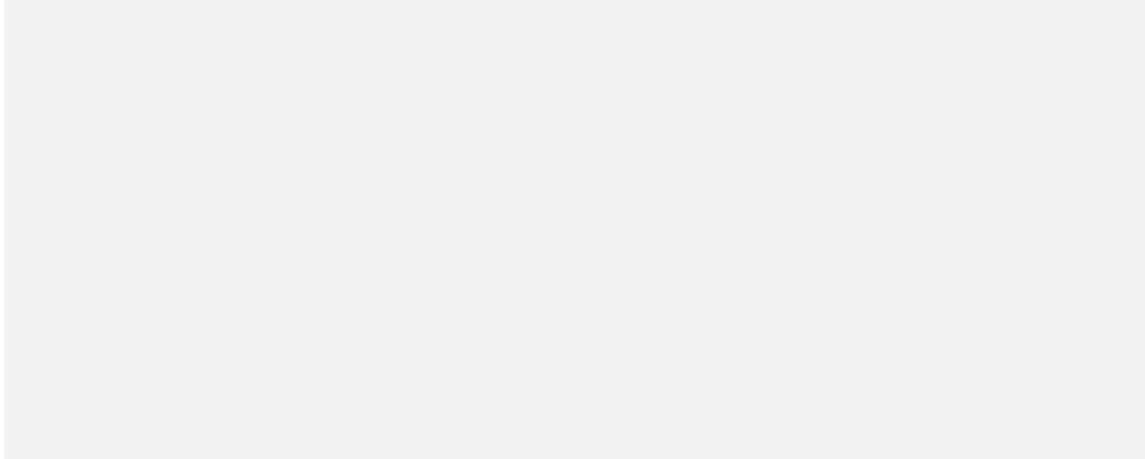
You might find it useful to save your input and our advice, to look at again later.



What will teaching and learning be like at uni?

At uni, Carey found the way subjects are taught more challenging than at college.

What do you think some of the differences might be at uni?



Our feedback

At university classes can be very large, particularly in first year. There may be as many as 100 students attending the same lecture. In general, there is less interaction with staff and more emphasis on independent learning. Students need good time management skills!

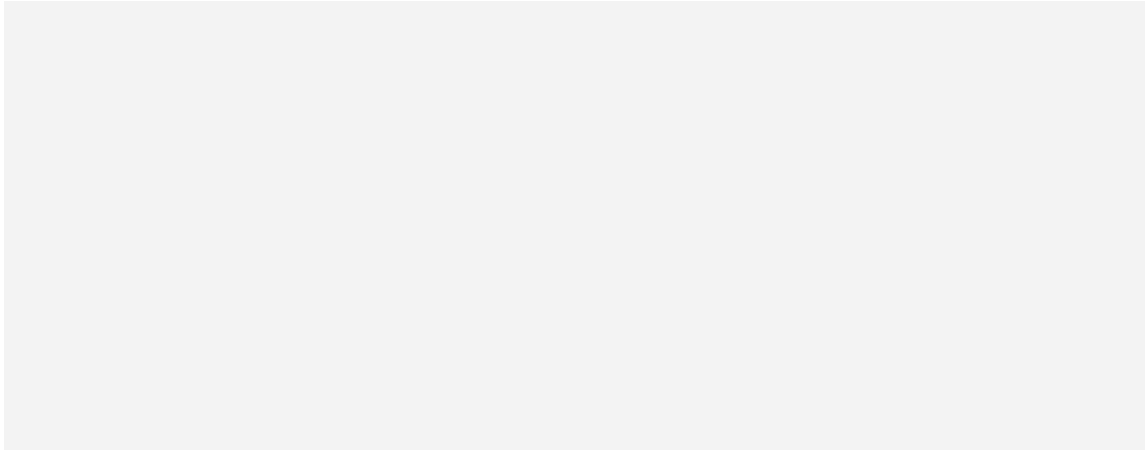
Carey says

"There are several good study guides, make sure you equip yourself with one of them. I think the Stella Cottrell seems to be the most popular today. I also got myself a psychology and sociology dictionary and they've both been invaluable."

What will writing assignments be like at uni?

At uni, Scott found he needed to prepare more for written assignments than he had expected.

What do you think writing assignments might be like at uni?



Our feedback

At university there is less input from teaching staff than at school or college, and students have more freedom to manage their own resources for their chosen topic. Academic writing is usually more formal and requires critical analysis and evaluation, as well as comprehensive references.

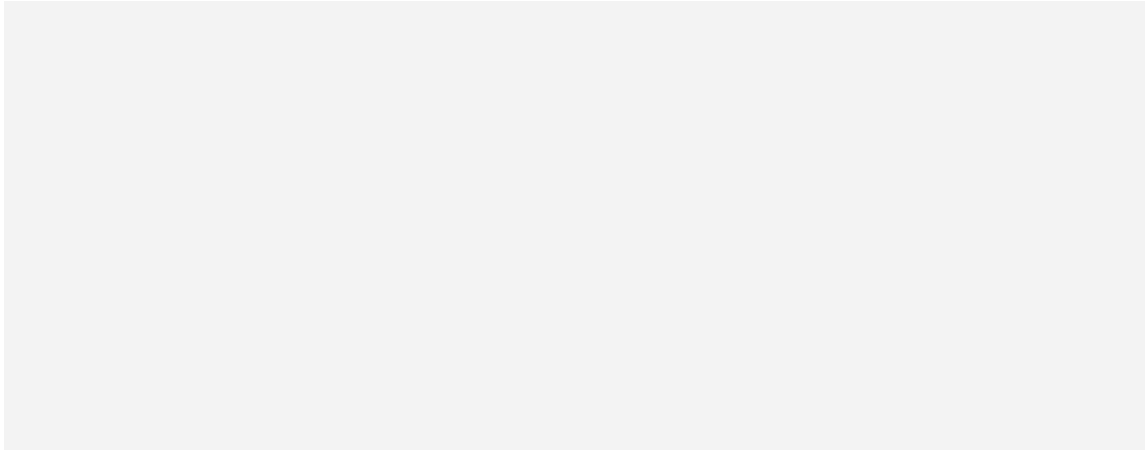
Scott says

"A good way to understand essay writing is to read journals and relevant literature to your course. This will give you an insight into the style and how to present essays and writing to your lecturers and in your exams."

Assessment and feedback at university

Claire found the more formal assessments at university could be quite scary at first.

What do you think assessment might be like at uni?



Our feedback

At university you may receive less feedback than in your previous studies, although most staff will offer advice when asked. There is also less flexibility in submission of your assignments. Most modules combine written assignments with formal end of course exams, and this can be scary at first!

Claire says

"When you start revising for exams, it could be a good idea to go through your notes and write kind of questions for yourself on separate paper. So you are giving yourself like a mini test. So the next time you come back to your work, you can find out when you try and answer the questions which areas you need to do more work on or like you maybe need to revise in more detail."

How prepared do I feel for uni right now?

Thinking about your responses so far, how ready do you feel for university study now?

- I'm a bit worried!
 - I'm not sure...
 - I'm quite confident!
-

Our feedback

Many students feel a bit anxious when they first start uni. It's quite natural! But it's important to remember you already have skills that will help in your studies at university.

Think about some of the skills you might bring, then look at our examples.

What skills do I already have?

Skills from school or college...

Writing essays and reports, reading academic texts, giving presentations, tackling assignments, working in groups ...

Skills from running a home...

Negotiating, organising schedules, finding creative solutions, communicating with a wide range of people, multi-tasking, prioritising...

Skills from holding down a job...

Getting on with people, being reliable, meeting deadlines, carrying out instructions, problem solving, learning from others, working as a team...

My notes

So, how did you do?

You already have many skills that will help in your studies at university.

As you've worked through this activity, perhaps you've also noticed some gaps, or started thinking about strategies that might help you, when things are new?

You might find it useful to make some notes here.

I'm good at...

.....

.....

.....

.....

I could work on...

.....

.....

.....

.....

My key strategies might be...

.....

.....

.....

.....

Good luck in your studies!