





The University of Sydney



Welcome

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The University of Sydney



Staying on Track Postgraduate Information Session

University of Sydney
Learning Centre



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
 - Juggling priorities
 - study vs non-study activities
 - 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?

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



Key Problem Areas for Students

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





Key Problem Areas for Students

- Essay/Assignment Writing:
 - Interpreting essay/assignment questions
 - Analysing ideas
 - Structuring the essay/assignment
 - Developing an argument
 - Supporting ideas/argument with 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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Key Problem Areas for Students

- Reading skills:
 - Keeping up with readings
 - Reading critically
 - Taking good notes from readings
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Key Problem Areas for Students

- Oral Presentation and Discussion:
 - Structuring a seminar paper
 - Performing with confidence
 - Speaking clearly
 - Discussing in class
 - Working in groups
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Resources which can Help

- Academic Writing Workshops:
 - Essay Writing
 - Writing Coursework Assignments
 - Managing the Literature for Coursework Assignments
 - Critical Writing at Postgraduate Level
 - Quoting, Summarising and Paraphrasing
 - Writing in an Academic Style
 - Clearer Writing
 - Functional Grammar for Academic Writing
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Resources which can Help

- Reading Workshops:
 - Reading Strategies
 - Reading for Effective Notetaking
 - Introduction to Critical Reading
 - Critical Reading of Research Articles
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Resources which can Help

- Oral Presentation / Discussion Workshops:
 - Oral Presentation Skills for Postgraduates
 - Discussion Skills for Postgraduates
 - Postgraduates Working in Groups
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Resources which can Help

- Studying at University Workshops:
 - Time Management for Coursework Students
 - Concentration and Procrastination
 - Learning Strategies
 - 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
 - Analytical writing
 - Planning and structuring an essay
 - Analysing an essay question
 - Developing and supporting an argument
 - The Reflective Student
 - Planning
 - Concentration
 - Procrastination
 - Making changes
 - 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 of Essay Writing series
 - Report Writing in the Sciences
 - The Reflective Student
 - SWOT lecture notes (extended versions)
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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: learning.centre@usyd.edu.au

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



The University of Sydney



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
- 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



**YOUR VOICE
YOUR SAFETY NET**

www.supra.usyd.edu.au

Student Advice and Advocacy Officers (SAAOs)

- SUPRA's SAAOs can give you advice about:
 - Appeals
 - Harassment and Discrimination
 - Special Consideration
 - Tenancy
 - Centrelink and Financial Assistance
 - Academic Honesty/Plagiarism
 - *ANYTHING* that is making studying difficult for you!



How do I find a SAAO?

- help@supra.usyd.edu.au
- www.supra.usyd.edu.au
- (02) 9351 3715
- Drop into the SUPRA office (Building G10 behind the tennis courts and the Services Building).



What's the Catch?

You must be a SUPRA Subscriber...

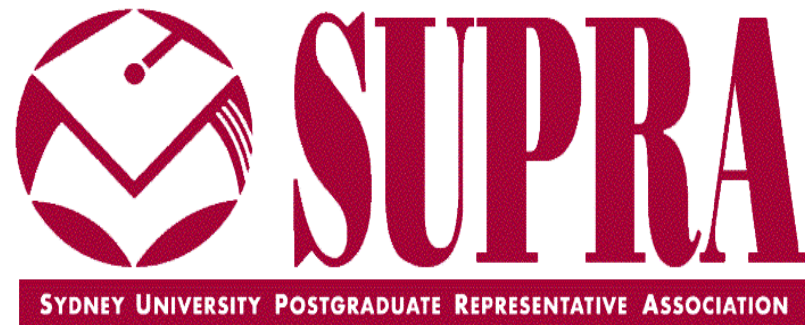
But... It's FREE!

You can subscribe when you make an appointment or on SUPRA's website.



Undergrad?

- Go to the SRC
- help@src.usyd.edu.au
- www.src.usyd.edu.au
- 9660 5222
- Level 1, Wentworth Building



**YOUR VOICE
YOUR SAFETY NET**

www.supra.usyd.edu.au



The University of Sydney



Staying on Track for Academic Success

**Presented by
Services for Students**



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
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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



Where are we?

- Level 5

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

Counselling Service: 8627 8433

counsell@stuserv.usyd.edu.au

ISSU: 8627 8437

info@issu.usyd.edu.au



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

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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