

TRANSITIONING TO UNIVERSITY for YEAR 12 VCE STUDENTS

What do I need to remember to be successful in my first year of Uni?

- **Attend orientation and transition activities** – *that way I can find out about support and advisory services available to me!*
- **Seek assistance to learn expectations of my lecturers** – *I will have to learn about tertiary essay writing, using sources, avoiding plagiarism, and managing my time, etc.*
- **Ask for help** – *no one will necessarily be offering any!*
- **Be an independent learner** – *my lecturers and tutors will not be reminding me about deadlines!*
- **Take charge of my own learning** – *no one will be checking up on me to see if I am keeping up with work or assignments!*
- **Organise my time effectively** – *there are no bells to remind me where to be!*
- **Classes may be much larger than what I have been used to at school** – *I will receive less individual attention!*
- **Making friends is important** – *building new friendship groups will help me cope and help me stay motivated!*
- **I will be learning new skills that will be critical for my success** – *I will have to learn important research and referencing skills!*

Useful Apps:

Download the following *free* apps from iTunes and Google Play –

LOST ON CAMPUS: find every tutorial room, lab, lecture theatre, coffee shop, car park, bus stop, even the nearest vending machines and free microwaves on campus -

<http://lostoncampus.com.au/>

FAIR: an app designed by the University of Melbourne to walk you through a series of common scenarios that can lead to breaches of academic integrity (like plagiarism), with advice on what to do and why it matters - <http://uomfair.info/>

Useful links to Victorian university support services:

Australian Catholic University

http://students.acu.edu.au/information_for/new_students/help_with_study

Deakin University

<http://www.deakin.edu.au/life-at-deakin/study-work-and-play/student-life-and-support>

Federation University of Australia

<http://federation.edu.au/future-students/study-at-feduni/student-support/student-futures-program>

La Trobe University

<http://www.latrobe.edu.au/students/learning>

Monash University

<http://www.monash.edu.au/adjusting/>

RMIT University

<http://www.rmit.edu.au/browse;ID=4anfktw008zrz>

Swinburne University

<http://www.future.swinburne.edu.au/student-services/>

University of Melbourne

<http://services.unimelb.edu.au/finder>

Victoria University

<http://www.vu.edu.au/campuses-services/student-support>



University Terms: When students are looking in to university study, they often come across words or terms they are unfamiliar with. So, here are a few of the more commonly used terms to help students understand what is being talked about!

Associated Degree - an associate degree is generally a two-year qualification that is made up of two-thirds of a bachelor degree, and may be offered by both TAFEs and universities. Students often use this as a stepping stone to the full Bachelor Degree.

Assumed knowledge – refers to subjects the university recommends or prefers a student to have studied at school before starting the course

ATAR – Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank – the figure used by UAC and VTAC to calculate the entrance ranking for a university course

Bachelor Degree – the award/qualification a student gains when they have completed studies in an undergraduate course, which takes between 3 or 4 years of full-time study. This is the traditional starting point of a university qualification.

Bridging Course – an introductory course to help students achieve the preferred entry level to a degree, e.g. a bridging maths course for students who do not have the preferred maths but need it to access a course

Census Date – the last day a student can withdraw from their university course and not owe fees

Commonwealth Supported Place (CSP) – a student's enrolment in a university degree for which the Commonwealth government makes a contribution towards the cost of that student's education (formerly known as a HECS place)

Credit – if a student has previously studied – perhaps at TAFE – and has Recognised Prior Learning (RPL), the student may be able to receive credit for a subject or subjects in their course. Also often referred to as *Advanced Standing*.

Double degree – a student can choose to complete a double degree – this integrates studies in two degrees resulting in an award of two degrees, usually after a minimum of 4 years of study. Often also referred to as *Combined Degrees*.

Defer – a student may choose to delay starting their course. Deferring an offer of a place might mean delaying for 6, 12, 18 or 24 months. Deferment ensures the student is guaranteed their place in their selected course

Elective – a subject that is not core to the degree and is often from another faculty, e.g. a commerce student might choose psychology (from the Arts Faculty) as an elective

Faculty – a department within a university devoted to a particular area of study – so, Faculty of Arts or Faculty of Science

HECS-HELP – a loan scheme that assists students with a CSP place to pay their contribution. Students may choose to pay their fees upfront and receive a 10% discount, or choose to defer payment via the HECS-HELP loan scheme

Honours – many Bachelor degrees offer a fourth year – called an Honours year. The Honours year allows students to further focus on a particular an area of interest. The Honours year can either be integrated into a 4-year Bachelor degree or be offered as a separate year after completion of a 3-year Bachelor degree

Lecture – a period of teaching given by a lecturer to a large group of students in a lecture theatre; can often be as many as 300 students in a lecture

Major study – an area within a course that allows in-depth study in a particular field. More than one major may be allowed in some courses

Minor study – a grouping of subjects allowing a broader understanding of a few subjects, with less emphasis on in-depth study

Prerequisite – a set of conditions – usually a completion of a subject – that must be met before enrolment in a subject or course is allowed.

Transcript – this is the university academic record each student receives, like a school report

Tutorial – a period of teaching given to a small group of students – involving discussion and participation

UAC – Universities Admissions Centre (UAC) – all students wishing to study at universities in ACT and NSW must apply online through UAC

Undergraduate – a student studying at university for a first level degree, e.g. a Bachelor degree

VTAC – Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre (VTAC) – all students wishing to study at universities Victoria must apply online through VTAC

Workplace learning – practical training in a workplace, such as internships or practical work experience. This is a hands-on experience – some universities call it *Industry Based Learning* or *Work Integrated Learning*