

First Year Conveners

Biology

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SCIENCE CENTRAL

The Science Central team provides information and administrative support for students and the general public.

Open Monday–Friday, 8.30am–4.30pm

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FIRST YEAR FACTSHEET
DEGREES DON'T
GROW ON TREES

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Commit to your studies

Three quarters of new university students have unrealistic expectations about the amount of study they are expected to do at university. The recommended amount of study at university is ten hours per week per subject - this is double what is expected of students at high school and is equivalent to a full time job.

What does this mean for you?

- > You will need to commit up to 40 hours a week to study (full-time).
- > As a university student you will need to take the initiative, no one will be checking up on you to make sure you are keeping up with the work.
- > You will need to learn to manage your time and your newly found freedom.

Skills for learning

Completing Year 12 doesn't mean you are fully prepared for university study. Many students report that university work is different to school work.

What does this mean for you?

- > You will need to adapt to a more independent learning style.
- > Be proactive in developing your study skills. Go to university workshops to help you develop the skills to succeed in research, analysis, writing and time management.
- > Keep up with the workload.
- > Further information on academic workshops can be found at academicskills.anu.edu.au.

Prioritise your time

Finding a balance between university, work, social life, family and other commitments is important. Most first year students expect to be able to work and study but only about half are able to.

Take care that other commitments don't impact on your studies - outside commitments can negatively affect your learning.

What does this mean for you?

- > Don't try to do too much on top of study. Balancing work, study and your social life is a challenge.
- > Prioritise study over other activities initially until you adjust to the expectations of university.

Ask for help & support

Teaching is only part of the role of university tutors and lecturers - they split their time between teaching, researching and administrative tasks. If you need help or extra feedback let them know, they will be happy to work with you.

It's normal to want to know what mark you got when you have submitted an assignment. Keep in mind that marking assignments fairly can take several weeks, especially for long assignments and large classes.

What does this mean for you?

- > If you feel like you need more feedback from university teaching staff, don't be afraid to ask for it.
- > Seek feedback and support from other sources as well, such as First Year Conveners and student support services.
- > Go to orientation activities.

For academic advice or to make an appointment with an academic advisor, at any time, phone 02 6125 2809 or email science.enquiries@anu.edu.au.

