



Starting at UTAS: Semester 2 Entry

If you haven't enrolled, look out for the companion fact sheet, 'Preparing for UTAS'.

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You've been accepted, you're enrolled and you're all fired up! What next? The key challenge for you over the following weeks will be to work out what is expected of you at university. This is no easy task, so don't feel overwhelmed if it takes a little while. The following information will provide you with hints and tips to smooth the process of your first semester.

STARTING IN SEMESTER 2

For all students beginning their University study in Semester 2, there are 3 key tips to help you make a successful transition.

- 1) Use your school and faculty admin. staff and your local student organisation as resources.
- 2) Make yourself known to your lecturers and tutors.
- 3) Get to know your fellow students.

The number of students starting study in Semester 2 is much smaller than in Semester 1. As a result, there will be fewer orientation activities on offer for you to take advantage of. Your school or faculty may offer a brief orientation session or some one-on-one support, but otherwise the onus will be on you to get to know your way around. Make use of school and faculty admin. staff, Student Administration and your local student organisation to source information.

You will also find that you will be attending classes with many students who have already completed at least one semester of study. Your lecturers and tutors will not necessarily know who the first-time students are, so make yourself known to them. Your fellow students will have learnt a lot about the campus and the 'how to' of University study in Semester 1. Get to know them and make use of their knowledge.

HOW DOES UNI WORK?

The learning environment

“Sometimes I feel like I’m just a student number...”
(second year student).

Along with the excitement of starting at a large campus can sometimes come a sense of feeling unknown and insignificant. Welcome to the world of ‘self-directed learning’! How much and how often you learn is essentially up to you. University can soon start to feel like home, but it’s up to you to get involved and take advantage of the opportunities provided.

All new students are encouraged to **enrol in UniStart**, an enabling course that provides a short face to face program prior to each semester, and access to many learning resources online throughout the year. UniStart is free for all domestic students. To enquire about UniStart, call 6226 7251 (Hobart) or 6324 3504 (Launceston and Cradle Coast) or go to: www.utas.edu.au/unistart for more information. Email enquiries to enquiries@calt.utas.edu.au

Learning format

Lectures are usually large classes and a lecturer presents the information using a variety of visual and auditory resources.

Tutorials (tutes) or practical groups are usually smaller groups run in conjunction with lecture courses, which include discussion or demonstration of material – you sign up for them during the first week. You will be expected to share your ideas but remember: you don’t have to know it all! You are there to learn and part of learning is asking questions (even the ones that seem stupid!).

Access your **timetable** online at: www.utas.edu.au/students. Click on the ‘Class Timetable’ link (select the ‘lectures only’ option). You can also pick up a ‘How do I work out my Timetable?’ information sheet from Student Services. Alternatively, call 1300 361 928 for assistance.

Teaching staff

Academics are not the same as the teachers you may remember from your school days. Their roles are split between teaching,

research and administrative commitments. They will not pursue you for work due and they may not even know who you are until later in your degree. They will make themselves available to you at appropriate times but will rely on you to contact them for what you need. You will need to take the initiative!

How much time?

Depending on your course, your contact hours (formal meeting times in lectures, tutes or practicals) may seem small. As a general rule however, the courses with fewer contact hours expect more ‘out of hours’ study. This will be made clear in the unit outlines at the start of each unit. Treat a full-time uni course as a full-time job and budget your time accordingly (at least 38 hours per week).

Library tours run early in semester. Ask in the library or go to: www.utas.edu.au/library for details and a wealth of other information.

GETTING STARTED

Visit the **First Year at UTAS website** for a host of information relevant to you as you start uni. Read the **First Year newsletters** to keep up-to-date with what’s on and what to do next, click the links on the site at: www.firstyear.utas.edu.au

Getting your ID card

Your Student ID Card is used for a range of things including library borrowing and entry to examinations. Information on how to obtain your ID card will be posted to you with your Enrolment Statement. If you’re not sure, phone 1300 361 928 for advice.

Using computers

Access to a computer is vital. If you lack confidence with computers, you are strongly encouraged to enrol in UniStart where you will gain the skills to get started.

Various links to available IT training and support can be accessed at: www.utas.edu.au/servicedesk. For further information, phone 1300 304 903.

Online training materials are also available at: www.firstyear.utas.edu.au/links/itskills.html

Accessing your email

You automatically get a UTAS email account and access to computers when you enrol. Your enrolment statement lists your username and passwords for your email account and access to computer labs. You can use any computer with an internet connection to access your account. To get started, access the email 'How to' information at: www.utas.edu.au/serviceDesk, or phone the Service Desk on 1300 304 903.

UNIAccess can help you access online information and UTAS study materials off-campus through your local Online Access Centre or State Library Branch. For more information, go to: www.utas.edu.au/uniaccess

Finding your way around

Before classes begin, take a tour of the campus and check out where your lectures will be. Don't miss your first lecture as you will get full details of the structure of the unit and how to enrol in your tutorials or practicals. Your lecturer will also let you know what assignments are required, when they are due and who to contact if you require help.

Download a **campus map** from the web. Follow the link from the First Year website at: www.firstyear.utas.edu.au

Getting orientated

It is clearly documented that students who succeed at university jump in with both feet. They get to know lecturers, tutors and other students. The best way to start this process is to attend orientation activities.

Attend all **orientation activities** relevant to you. Visit the First Year website at: www.firstyear.utas.edu.au and click on 'Orientation & Enrolment Activities', or call 1300 361 928 for details.

NATURE OF A SUCCESSFUL STUDENT

"My time at uni was not just about the knowledge I gained from my chosen field, but about the life skills I developed. It took me time to 'learn the ropes' of how uni works and I needed to allow for

this to happen. Equipping myself with as much support as I could and not being afraid to ask about anything (even though I felt stupid at times!) helped heaps. I look back on my uni days as some of the best in my life!" (graduate of 15 years).

Make use of the **University's Mentor Scheme** which introduces you to experienced students in the first weeks of uni. Contact your school or faculty for more information or phone Student Services.

Getting to know other students

Some students come to university with a group of friends, but for others it can start out being a very lonely experience. If you'd like to meet other students, there are a number of ways of doing this. Whichever method you try, give it time – often the connections come gradually.

- Introduce yourself to people next to you in lectures and tutorials.
- Make sure to attend any social events organised by your school.
- The University student body (Tasmania University Union) have a wide range of clubs and societies (see over for contact details).
- Start or join a study group.
- Ask for a mentor.
- If you find it very difficult getting the confidence to talk to others, consider seeing a counsellor at Student Services.

Academic feedback

Getting feedback on your progress can be a challenging task at university. You will need to find ways to assess your own understanding of the material and ensure that you are 'on the right track'. Look out for study partners and make use of academic staff. If you feel you need more intensive help, consider enrolling in selected units from the University Preparation Program (UPP).

For **help with your studies**, visit the 'Assignment Help' website at: www.utas.edu.au/assignmenthelp/ or call 6226 7251 (Hobart) or 6324 3504 (Launceston/Cradle Coast).

Changing Your Course

Courses don't always turn out to be what you expected and it is possible to change them. However, it's best to discuss changing courses with a Course Adviser or an academic sub-dean. You can also contact Client Services Staff on 1300 361 928 for help. Be aware that all changes must be completed by the census dates to avoid HECS liability and academic penalty. Information on census dates can be found on the enrolment website – follow the links from www.utas.edu.au 'Current Students'.

SUPPORT

Whether academic or personal, there are plenty of people who can support you on campus. The key issue is ASK!

Register online with **CareerHub** for your career and employment needs at: www.utas.edu.au/services/careers and click on the 'CareerHub' logo.

- For *personal issues*, make a free appointment with a professional counsellor – visit or phone your local Student Services office, visit the Student Services website, or browse and borrow books from the counselling resource library.
- Visit Student Services to browse the careers resource library or speak to someone about your *career/employment options*.
- If you have a *disability* that may affect your study, we strongly encourage you to discuss this with your lecturer/s and/or see the Disability Service in Student Services for information and advice.
- There is a diversity of faiths within the University community and visiting religious representatives are available to provide *spiritual* support. For more information, follow the links from the Student Services website.
- The TUU provide student representation and advocacy, welfare support, social interests and entertainment. To find out more, attend their activities during orientation or visit their website at: www.tuu.com.au.

NEED MORE HELP?

- Go to the First Year website at: www.firstyear.utas.edu.au or call 1300 361 928 for further details on any of the information contained in this fact sheet.
- For a huge amount of information about what students can expect at university – from lectures, tutorials etc. through to study strategies and what it means to be an independent learner – go to the Teaching and Learning Environment at UTAS at: www.utas.edu.au/tl/lte