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| HIGHER EDUCATION PREPARATION |
|  | **TEACHING AND LEARNING** |  |

**Whether you are undertaking higher education studies to gain an in-depth understanding of your subject of interest, to continue developing your study and employability skills or to help pursue a professional career, this guide explains what to expect and how to prepare for this.**

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| **KEY FEATURES** |
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|  | **DEEPENING YOUR KNOWLEDGE** |
| You will **expand** your **knowledge** beyond textbook  |
| summaries and read from a wide range sources, such as **scholarly books**, **journal articles** and **research** **papers**. Upon completing your course, you will have a **thorough** and **up-to-date knowledge** of your **discipline**.  |

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|  | **CRITICAL THINKING** |
| **Rigorously** **questioning** and **analysing** the content  |
| you are learning and developing your **skills** in how to apply the **tools** of your **field** in **original** and **new ways** are **key** **elements** of higher education study. |

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|   | **INCREASED SPECIALISATION** |
| At higher education level, there is **no national**  |
| **curriculum.** Instead, the **topics** covered on your course are typically related to the **expertise** of your **lecturers** and the **research** that is taking place at your college or university. There is also more **freedom** to **identify, explore** and **develop** your **area(s) of interest**, for example in a **dissertation** or **major project**. |

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|  | **MORE INDEPENDENT STUDY** |
| The **hours** you spend learning with **teaching staff**  |
| (“**contact time**”) may be **lower** compared to your previous studies. Instead, your lecturers **introduce** you to a topic and you **build upon** this knowledge in your **own** **time**, for example by completing **set** **readings** and **researching** around your topic. As such, **successful** **students** often spend a lot of time in the **library**!  |

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|  | **MANAGING YOUR OWN TIME** |
| It will be your responsibility to **manage your**  |
| **workload, attend** your **sessions** and **submit** your assignments **on time**. You may receive a **handbook** for each of your modules, which typically includes a **timetable** plus key **deadlines**. |

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|  | **DIFFERENT STUDENT-TEACHER RELATIONSHIP** |
| Typically, relationships with your lecturers |
| can feel more **equal** than at school or college. It can often seem like, rather than being told what to do, you are **working through an issue together.** |

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| **COURSE ORGANISATION** |
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| **A picture containing drawing  Description automatically generated** | **MODULES AND CREDITS** |
| Your course may be split into **modules** (or  |
| **units**), which are typically* **Compulsory/core:** you must study
* **Optional:** you choose to study

You may be able to study **optional modules** from **outside** of your **main** **subject** area. Some modules can involve **more work** to complete, in which case you **earn you more credits** towards your **qualification**. |

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|  | **SEMESTERS** |
| Most colleges and universities split their  |
| academic year into **three semesters** (or **terms**). If you are studying an **accelerated degree**, a **fourth term** may replace your **summer holiday** period. |

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|  | **READING WEEK** |
| Your college or university may set this  |
| **halfway** through a **term** to help you **complete** your **reading** and **work towards your assignments**. As such, **teaching sessions** are typically **not scheduled**. |

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|  | **TEACHING METHODS** |
| Depending on your subject, you may **attend**: |
| * **Lectures:** a lesson delivered in speech or presentation format to a large number of students. There may be little interaction with your lecturer(s)
* **Seminars:** meeting in smaller groups to discuss your readings and the content recently covered on your course. These are typically more informal than lectures
* **Tutorials:** one-to-one sessions with your lecturer/personal tutor where you can discuss your understanding and assignments plus receive feedback
* **Laboratories/workshops:** these help you develop your knowledge of the typical working environment, methods, and techniques of your discipline
* **Field work:** where you apply the knowledge you have gained in lectures, seminars etc. beyond the college/university setting
* **Work placements:** gaining skills and experience in a realistic setting

**Digital platforms** can also play a key role in higher education teaching and learning. |

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| **PREPARATION** |
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|  | **STRENGTHEN YOUR STUDY STILLS** |
| **The Study Skills Book** by  | The Study Skills Book (Smarter Study Skills) by [Kathleen McMillan, Jonathan Weyers] |
| **Kathleen McMillan** includes **tips** and **techniques** for successful higher education studies: [**https://bit.ly/2MQdld2**](https://bit.ly/2MQdld2)The **SkillsYouNeed** websiteprovides **free advice** on **improving** your **study** **skills:** [**https://bit.ly/3hirZrE**](https://bit.ly/3hirZrE) |
| **FutureLearn** offer **free online study skills courses**, including:* **Preparing to Learn Online at University:** [**https://bit.ly/3hgGBrr**](https://bit.ly/3hgGBrr)
* **Improving your Study Techniques:** [**https://bit.ly/3f7k26K**](https://bit.ly/3f7k26K)
* **Critical Thinking at University (An Introduction):** [**https://bit.ly/2YpV8bB**](https://bit.ly/2YpV8bB)
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|  | **COMPLETE YOUR PRE-READING** |
| Your college or university may provide you with |
| **material** to **read** **before** **starting** the first academic year. Completing this will put you in a **strong position** for when teaching and learning starts. |

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|  | **UNDERTAKE WIDER LEARNING** |
| The summer holidays are a **perfect time** to  |
| **broaden** both your **general** and **subject-specific** knowledge. You could achieve this by:* Keeping up to date with **news** and **current** **affairs**
* Reading **sector** **magazines** and **publications**
* Listening to **Open University podcasts**: [**https://bit.ly/3dRTo1y**](https://bit.ly/3dRTo1y)
* Watching **TED-ed videos**: [**https://bit.ly/2BYhNEw**](https://bit.ly/2BYhNEw)
* Completing **FutureLearn courses**: <https://bit.ly/2Yq1Nm7>
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| **MY PREPARATION PLAN** |
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| **SLN Connect** is funded by the **Office for Students** and works in partnership with the **Chichester College Group** to provide **free** and **impartial** **information, advice and guidance on progression pathways** (including **college** and **university** study and **apprenticeships**). |
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|  | [**sussexlearningnetwork.org.uk**](https://www.sussexlearningnetwork.org.uk/) |

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