SUPPORTING TRANSITION IN THE CLOUD
UNISTART MAKEOVER

Learn more about study strategies and about studying at Deakin:

- Visit this essential Deakin resource for new students: Get Ready
- Attend an Introduction to studying at university workshop in 0-week
- Attend a Study Skills workshop
- Talk to a student mentor or a Language and Learning Adviser
DEAKIN

50,000 current students
24% cloud learners
15% international
21.1% regional
14.3% low SES
27.2% mature age 25-39
10.5% mature age 40+
Students who are ‘first in family’ are less likely to seek help, less likely to have an effective support network, and may find it more difficult to embrace the new identity of being a university student. (Talebi, Matheson & Anisman 2013)

Orientation is not an event but a process. (Kift, Nelson & Clarke 2010)

It is often students’ experiences during the transition period that determine their expectations throughout their course. (Nelson, Kift & Clarke 2008)
THE PROJECT
COLLABORATION
Start Here
Orientation is more than just O Week. Learn how to use this site, and much more.

The Big Picture
So you have just started Uni? Where do you begin? Right here.

Digital Tools
Deakin’s online learning environment enables interactive and engaging learning.

Study Success
There is no magic to study success – you get better at it over time.

The Personal Journey
Convert your challenges into opportunities.

Links
Essential Deakin links and further reading on all topics.

News

Sessions

Feedback
Critical thinking

Being a critical thinker is very similar to being a private investigator.

At University, you will find yourself doing a lot of reading, acquiring new skills and knowledge in your area of study. But then what do you do with all this knowledge?

Learning is not just about acquiring facts, figures and other people's opinions. It is also about reconstructing knowledge, problem-solving and analysing information. As a University student, you need to engage in critical thinking.

Critical thinking involves not passively accepting what we read, hear or see. Instead, we actively question, make judgements about underlying assumptions, and evaluate information. It also involves reflecting on our own thinking processes, carefully considering other people's points of view, trying to avoid being blinded by our own biases and emotions, and coming to an informed decision.

At University, you will be expected to use critical thinking to analyse articles, books, reports, internet material and other media. You will be expected to use logic and clear reasoning in all of your assessments, and to support your position with evidence.

Critical analysis starts with asking questions

It is your job as an academic student to ask questions and to hold other people's ideas and works up to scrutiny.

In many ways, being a critical thinker is very similar to being a private investigator:

- Question what people say and write
- Look at assumptions
- Explore connections
- Consider what might be missing
- Examine the type and amount of evidence available
- And then come to your own conclusion in a systematic, evidence-based way.

Conclusions

Use logic & reasoning
Avoid bias & emotions
Find gaps in knowledge
Examine evidence
Explore connections
Question sources & assumptions

Make a start

Download and save a copy of the Critical thinking worksheet (DOCX). Use these questions as a guide when you do your reading. Create and save a new document for each new reading.

Learn how to use some typical phrases used to express critical thinking in the Academic phrasesbook produced by The University of Manchester.
The Big Picture
So you have just started Uni? Where do you begin? Right here.

Where do I begin?
- I wish I had known that!
- Checklist: Your first trimester
- A few tips for new students
- Deakin speak
- Cloud learning

Deakin and you
- Making connections
- Your career starts now!

Essential Deakin links
- Get supported and get involved

Discussion
- The Big Picture discussion
Study Success
There is no magic to study success – you get better at it over time.

- **Independent learners**
  - Tips for early success
  - Time management
  - Critical thinking
  - Reflective learning
  - Checklist: Being an independent learner

- **Library**
  - Getting to know your Library
  - Checklist: My Library

- **Assignments**
  - Beginning your assignment
  - Reading and note taking
  - Referencing and academic integrity
  - Self assessment: Referencing and academic integrity
  - Checklist: Beginning an assignment

- **Communication**
  - Effective communicators
  - Groupwork

- **Essential Deakin links**
  - Study support and more

- **Discussion**
  - Study Success discussion
PROMOTION

ARE YOU A NEW STUDENT OR RETURNING TO STUDY AFTER A LONG BREAK?

UniStart is a self-access resource to help you make a great start.

Find UniStart in your list of CloudDeakin units:
- hear student stories
- get tips from lecturers
- learn about IT tools
- make connections.

Visit UniStart now:
deakin.edu.au/students/study-support/new-students
STUDENT ACTIVITY

- 5,517 users
- 228 forum posts
- 6,262 Turnitin activity attempts
- 3,400 views of UniStart videos

From the student survey:

- 59% of users were cloud students
- 48% UG, 38% PG c’work, 23% international, 20% mature
STUDENT FEEDBACK

The “Being an independent learner” topic was most helpful as my course is delivered online.

I like hearing about other people’s experiences, and it felt comforting to know that if life does take a turn, the Deakin Team will be able to offer support and guidance.

It is easy to follow and loads of information. I don't feel so nervous with the expectations of assignments.

I found the critical thinking information the most helpful as this will make note taking and referencing for my readings more effective.
FURTHER OUTCOMES

- Strengthened relationships and resource sharing
- Increased student engagement
- Positive feedback from student survey
- Consolidating our resources and service
- Raised profile across the Uni
- 2015 VC Award for Student Experience
CHALLENGES

During production
• Finding the right people
• Auditing a uni website
• Coordination of contributors
• Staff access

Ongoing
• Updating resources!
• LLAs with Tech skills essential
• Student access pre-orientation
• Promotion – and keeping it relevant and visible
QUESTIONS?

> Study Success video

> UniStart site

Before you start

- Need IT Help to set up your device(s)?
- Make sure your browser does not block video content in this site. We recommend using Mozilla Firefox on a PC or Safari on an Apple. Read more about checking your browser settings in CloudDeakin.
- At the beginning of your first trimester, attend an Introduction to studying at University session (face-to-face or online) and take a tour of your Deakin Library, in addition to using UniStart.
- Find a list of common Deakin terms in Deakin Speak in The Big Picture module.
- Read the following section ‘Navigation’.