Critical Intersections: the 12th Biennial Conference of the Association for Academic Language and Learning, University of Wollongong 25-27th November 2015'
UNISTART MAKEOVER

Deakin University CRICOS Provider Code: 00113B
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
Deakin University CRICOS Provider Code: 00113B
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

Deakin University CRICOS Provider Code: 00113B
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 Deakin 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'.

Deakin University CRICOS Provider Code: 00113B