

[MUSIC PLAYING]

KAREN FOLEY: Hello and welcome back to the Student Hub Live. It's our evening session, the session we've all been waiting for. I know Holly's been waiting for it and is super excited and has her Earl Grey tea to the ready.

Everyone's been having dinner. Joanne's had hot dogs. Penelope's had steak pie. Katharine's had vegetable bake. And Sylvia's been having her lunch, because of course, she is far away.

So it's great to see that you've all been chatting while we've been having our off air time. I hope you've enjoyed those boot camps. I'd be interested to know what you thought of them. So if you've got any comments, do let us know. We've got a feedback button on the website so you can fill in a quick form and let us know what you've thought of this whole event and the Student Hub, even. And you can also select the Count Me In button and we'll tell you about when we're next back.

So Sophie and Kristen, you've also been very busy. What have you been doing and how's it all going?

KRISTEN: Well, I've been saving the world. [LAUGHTER]

KAREN FOLEY: You have. You were brilliant. Do you know what, if Gwen hadn't got here, I don't know how you had a Get Out of Jail card. I thought you would go to the Accounting department and get him bags of money.

KRISTEN: Well, yes, but I did have that Get Out of Jail Free card in my back pocket, so I figured I might as well give it to him.

KAREN FOLEY: Aww. Well, it was very kind and generous of you. Thank you. Because it was--

KRISTEN: Thank you--

KAREN FOLEY: --great to have--

KRISTEN: --very much.

KAREN FOLEY: And I'm very excited about the moot he's going to do later in the session tonight. So that'll be

great. Sophie, what did you have for dinner?

SOPHIE: I had jacket potato.

KAREN FOLEY: OK.

SOPHIE: It was lovely. Something nice and quick, all ready to go. Please do remember that if you have any questions that we don't get to ask, please e-mail us, studenthub@open.ac.uk. And we are on Twitter. Our Twitter hashtag is #studenthublive16.

KAREN FOLEY: Great. Now, for those of you who have just joined us, we are going to put some widgets up. These are interactive voting tools, and it's our way of knowing who's out there and what you're talking about. So if you're in the Watch and Engage option for the website, you can tell us what you think. So we'd like to know where you are. We'd like to know which level you're studying. We'd like to know what you're studying, how you're feeling right now.

So if you can select those, when there's a multi-choice question, you just select the one that applies, and then you'll be able to see what everyone else thinks also. And if it's a Wordle, or a word cloud, where we give you a choice of three words, and you can only think of one or two, just put an x in the other ones so at least your answer will submit and populate. They do need to be complete for the items to send to us. So please do have a go at doing that. And it'll be great to be able to feed that back in to you very, very soon.

Sophie said if you've got questions, e-mail us, studenthub@open.ac.uk, and we will get back to you with an answer on those. So anything to do with business and law-- or studying, for that matter-- that we haven't got around to answering today, then we can do that for you later. Our hashtag on Twitter is #studenthublive16. So send us any questions and comments on that also if you're in the Watch Only option.

Our catch up is available. So some of those boot camp sessions that we've just been playing you, they're all available online. And there are some great ones that you can go on to watch, like how to submit your TMA, our advice for planning and writing and formatting your TMA, and on assessment and feedback a little bit more generally. Sophie, what was your best memory of the boot camp sessions? Because you were only here for a couple, but then you watched a few online as well.

SOPHIE: I was only here for one, and heartbroken, because I did catch up on them, and they looked

really, really good. I think Annie did a really good job on H day. But obviously, I mean, all the food the first time. I must have put on a stone just watching it. But I had hot dogs, popcorn-- it was great.

And I really got on with HJ. It's a shame he's not here for the last one tonight. But hopefully he'll be back soon.

But the boot camps are really fun. I really enjoyed the time management session, because I think that can link in, also, to my work as well as my study. Time management's something you can use in life in general. So I really enjoyed that.

KAREN FOLEY: That's a very nice hat, Sophie.

SOPHIE: Thank you. I'm preparing for the winter. It is so cold outside and rainy.

KAREN FOLEY: Is it?

SOPHIE: Yes. So I'm going to have to make sure I layer up, I think.

KAREN FOLEY: Yeah. No, it is. It's really turning the season. Kristen, you've also-- is there something going on I don't know about? Because of course, I'm locked in here all day and night.

KRISTEN: Oh, I think something has to do with the moot, doesn't it, later on?

KAREN FOLEY: The moot.

KRISTEN: Yes.

KAREN FOLEY: What? What are we mooting about hats?

KRISTEN: I'm not sure. I'm not sure.

SOPHIE: [LAUGHING]

KAREN FOLEY: We've been getting questions about what a moot is. We're not so sure, but we're very excited about it. Maybe it's got something to do with hats. Maybe not. We'll see. But I'm looking forward to that a bit later in the session.

Well, first up tonight, I'm going to be talking law with Claire Sumner, who's going to be giving us her advice. She is on the W101 module, so she's going to be talking to us about studying law and tips for law students. And maybe she can fill us in on what a moot is as well.

We're then going to be taking a look at some current affairs. And I have Jessica Giles and Peter Bloom from law and business. And we're going to be taking a look at what's been happening in the news and what spins law and business can have on those very topical issues.

We're then going to have our sport section. Now sports, why is that involved? Well, actually, there is an MBA Business and Sport-- well, football, in fact. So we're going to be talk about the very topical issue of cheating in football.

And then, finally, we have this moot. So let me welcome Claire Sumner to the studio. Claire, do you know what a moot is?

CLAIRE SUMNER: Yes, I do.

KAREN FOLEY: What is it?

CLAIRE SUMNER: It's a pretend trial.

KAREN FOLEY: Ah.

CLAIRE SUMNER: So it's pretending to be in front of a judge, submitting an application or defending an application, and trying to win, if you like, the process. So it's a mock trial.

KAREN FOLEY: And has it got anything to do with hats?

CLAIRE SUMNER: I'm not sure what the hats are about. I'll find out later.

KAREN FOLEY: [LAUGHING] You'll have to watch. Now, the Open University Law Society, they do this mooting and paintballing, I am told. So these are their two favourite activities. Is mooting something that is something that lawyers do often, or is it more something that law societies do?

CLAIRE SUMNER: [CHUCKLING] It's an interesting question. It really depends what you do with your law degree and where you go with it in the future. If you become a solicitor, you will inevitably be involved in some advocacy, particularly if you end up in a litigation department. If you become a barrister, then what you do every day will be all about advocacy. So it very much depends which avenue you take with your law degree. But in terms of the skill that you develop during mooting, it's something that gives you confidence in public speaking and can be used in all areas of professional life, I would say.

KAREN FOLEY: One of the things that Neil Graffin told us earlier was that even if you do a law degree and don't end up practicing some aspect of law, it's very, very useful because of the skills that you can learn. So W101 is the first level law module that people would engage with if they were doing one of these qualifications. And of course, within that, there is content and skill. So apart from mooting and advocacy, what are some of the key skills that you think are really important for students at that very early stage to get their heads around?

CLAIRE SUMNER: I think what students are often quite worried about, when they first start on a law degree-- and with 101 being the first module, in particular, we see this-- they're concerned about how to write a law essay. They're concerned about how to solve a legal problem. So these are the two key skills that we develop throughout the first module. And there are plenty of resources out there to help them engage with those skills and improve across the module.

KAREN FOLEY: Can you give us a bit of a snapshot, then, about how the module is structured, because you use case studies in a whole range of multimedia material, books, the virtual learning environment. How does the module look for students?

CLAIRE SUMNER: OK, so it's very much a taster, if you like, of all the different sorts of areas of law that they'll go on to study throughout their degree. So they'll have a little look at various aspects of law just to whet their appetites and get them engaged and get them enjoying the law and get them thinking about it critically.

KAREN FOLEY: Excellent. Sophie and Kristen, how many law students have we got out there, and do they have any specific questions that we need to cover in this section?

SOPHIE: I don't think we really have many, actually. We've got a football chat going on now, so I think there's a lot of expectation for that one. And looking at the widget, 81% of people chatting online are doing finance, business, and law. So it looks like quite a lot. And throughout the day, we've had a lot of people on with doing law especially.

But yeah, generally, just a chat about football. I mean-- it was Abby? Abby went to see the football. She went and sat in a box for her first match. So she was very lucky. She's trying to learn football for her boyfriend, bless her. So--

KAREN FOLEY: Aww.

SOPHIE: Yes.

KRISTEN: There are a couple of people that are studying law. And a couple of them are studying two modules at the same time. So maybe that might be something Claire could talk about, is what it's like to try to juggle both modules at once.

KAREN FOLEY: I've heard this, and this was something Neil was talking about earlier today. Can you tell us what your experience is of this?

CLAIRE SUMNER: Yeah, it's becoming a very popular mode of study, to take 101 and 102 together, to take 202 and 203 together, which are our second year modules. And effectively, what that means and what we advise students is that that makes them the equivalent of a full-time student. And so that's something that they really need to think about when they're looking at time management, particularly as a lot of our students are working at the same time as studying. So it's a question of being extremely organised and thinking about the actual workload for two modules running concurrently. And it's double the work of doing one on its own, obviously.

KAREN FOLEY: I bet it is. We've got nearly 2/3 of our students here who are doing level 1. Well, just over, actually-- 67% who are doing level 1 modules. So it might be that whilst we've got most people here who are doing a business or law module, they are at level 1.

Now, only 53% of you have been to a Student Hub Live event before. So welcome to the people who haven't been to a Student Hub Live event. As you will sense from the conversation, anything goes in the chat. You can pretty much ask anything, talk about anything, even if we're not talking about it. So Sophie and Kristen will chat with you along the way.

You can talk to other people. You can let us know your questions and thoughts. So please, welcome to the community. Please get involved and talk to each other. And those of you who have been here before, say hello to the new ones who haven't.

OK, so this idea of concurrent modules, then, that students may be dealing with, in particular with law, has issues with time management. Now, we've shown a video in the break about time management. And you know, it all is very theoretical. We often get the concept of it, but law has a lot of reading to do, Neil was telling us. And also, there's a lot of case studies, a lot of skills, a lot of jargon to get your head around. What would your advice be in terms of trying to manage time, in particular when you've got this range of multimedia-- books, papers, et cetera-- to engage with?

CLAIRE SUMNER: Yeah, I'd think carefully about the resources that are available to you, and which particular resources you need to focus on, because there are so many there. So for example, if we're talking about jargon and terminology, there's a really good thing that's available for students online, which is a Law Dictionary. And they can click straight on that and find immediately a reference to the terminology that they don't understand. So it's really, I think, playing around with Student Home initially in those first few weeks of study and finding the right resources. And that will help you save time.

KAREN FOLEY: OK, so there's an awful lot, and we've seen at the Student Hub that there's so many things that people can engage with, and you do need to focus, I guess, in terms of what's important. So dictionary would be one of the top tips that you would want to talk about. You've also said things like referencing can be quite an important thing to get one's head around. And we've heard from the library during various Student Hub Live sessions about how they can support students with referencing. Referencing is common, but how does it-- is it specific to law?

CLAIRE SUMNER: Yeah, it is. And it's something that students worry about a lot, and they worry about falling foul of plagiarism rules as well. So we have two specific library sessions geared especially for 101 students to show them how to use the law library. That's a very generic session. But also, particularly, there's a rights and cite session which is coming up very shortly. And tutors will be letting their students know when that's coming up.

KAREN FOLEY: Oh, OK. Because you do have slightly different conventions in terms of-- most of the university, you use Harvard, but you have slightly different conventions, I understand.

CLAIRE SUMNER: Yeah, that's right. And in particular, students are always very worried about how to cite a case study, for example-- how to cite a case law, rather-- and there are particular ways of doing that. And we can show them and give them examples.

KAREN FOLEY: OK. Now, do essays differ in law compared to other subject areas?

CLAIRE SUMNER: I suppose the big difference would be that students are often, with an essay, given a quote from a law case, a quote from a judge or an academic, and asked to think about that. So that in itself might lead them to be directed to a case initially. So perhaps there would be a difference there, yes.

KAREN FOLEY: OK. Sophie and Kristen, are any people talking about some of the opportunities that there are in terms of law? We've been talking today about some of the ways in which people are trying

to express their careers in quite different and unique avenues for them. Is there anything that's coming up through the chat in terms of what people are hoping they can do with their qualifications?

SOPHIE: Not at the moment, actually, but that did come up earlier. There was a lot of people having career changes and people who'd maybe been out of employment for a little bit. We do have some questions on W101. So--

KAREN FOLEY: --a lot of W101 students here today.

SOPHIE: Yes. We have a couple, actually. So Penelope has said that referencing in W101 is a bit of an issue for her. Do you have any referencing tips or anything specifically for W101?

CLAIRE SUMNER: These aren't specific for 101 if you like, but we have got, as I said, the rights and cite session at the library. We've also got a law school undergraduate assessment guide which has a link to the law school referencing a citation guide. So I would just suggest that for a 101 student in particular, that they should be looking at those resources from the outset to reassure them what it is we're looking for, and to try not to worry about it, because their tutors will know that they're new to this. They'll know that they're new to referencing in law. And they'll give them the appropriate feedback in that first TMA and help them through.

SOPHIE: Thank you.

KAREN FOLEY: Now we've heard from previous colleagues about some of the initiatives in law to give students opportunities to practise law. So the pro bono law clinic, for example. And I wondered if you could tell us about some of the wider legal opportunities that students could engage with, perhaps especially when they're starting their journey in law.

CLAIRE SUMNER: Yes. So the Law Society is a great place to start. Membership of the Law Society will entitle students to sign up for a variety of educational and social events. So I just heard some colleagues talking about-- it was a laser party. There's a Christmas party.

But in particular, in terms of skills that they can develop, the Law Society run, as you were mentioning earlier, the mooting. But there are also other opportunities. So for example, to engage with the wider community and students from other law modules, students will find out that we have an annual law lecture. For example, this year, our lecture was in London. And there's always a very interesting guest speaker, who this year was Shami Chakrabarti, the human rights campaigner and former director of Liberty.

So all sorts of opportunities. So I'd say Law Soc is a really good place, Law Society, a really good place to start. And they have their own Twitter feed, so they can find out what's going on there.

KAREN FOLEY: Great. And we're going to hear from the Law Society a little bit later. We're going into our next session, which is all about current affairs. And one of the things that we're very, very mindful of is that there's a lot of change happening in law that will impact on the way that we both study and teach. So what is your top tip in terms of keeping up to date with current affairs for students? Why is that important?

CLAIRE SUMNER: I think it's really important, not because they need to worry about how the law might change during their module, because they'll be assessed on their module materials. But I think it's really important for engagement. Students have signed up for a law module and a law degree because they have a fascination with the law. And I think it's really important not to lose that. And engagement with what's happening on a daily or a weekly basis in the news, and in legal stories in particular, will help them maintain, I think, that interest.

KAREN FOLEY: Thank you very much. Well, Claire, that has been a really short but very, very useful session. And the students who are studying W101 are really pleased to see you here. And it's great to put a face to some of the authors behind some of the chapters within this module. So thank you for coming along.

CLAIRE SUMNER: OK. Thank you.

KAREN FOLEY: Sophie and Kristen, are you still talking about football, and shall we get our next guests in?

SOPHIE: I think we've set it up a bit now. There are a lot of people coming through with what they'd like to do with their qualification. So we've got quite a few people looking to become a barrister-- Laura and Holly. And then you've got people like Joanne, who aren't necessarily set on a career, just enjoying studying. We've got Stephanie, who wants to be a solicitor. Have you picked up any more, Kristen? No.

KRISTEN: Well, I mean, what's interesting to me are all the different types of law that people want to study, so common law, civil law, family law. So they're covering a wide range of subjects, which-- for me, I'm in business. So it's pretty interesting to see all the different things that you can study.

KAREN FOLEY: I know. I must admit, I'm getting quite tempted by law the more and more I hear about it. We asked you what the most satisfying thing was about studying law. And I'd just like to end this session by having a look at some of the answers that you gave us to that Wordle.

So people were saying it was very interesting. Changing lives, expanding, doing debates, solving problems, enjoying the subject, preserving rights, enriching. A lot of very, very positive words associated with studying law. You guys must love it. So I'm glad you've joined us tonight.

We're going to have a short break now. And we're going to show you a video which is one of our alumni videos, which is about Heather Henry and her story. So we'll be back after that video with our discussion about news and current affairs before the football. Stay with us. We'll see you soon.

[MUSIC PLAYING]