Pre session polls

What level of study are you?
- Access
- Level 1
- Level 2
- Level 3
- Postgraduate

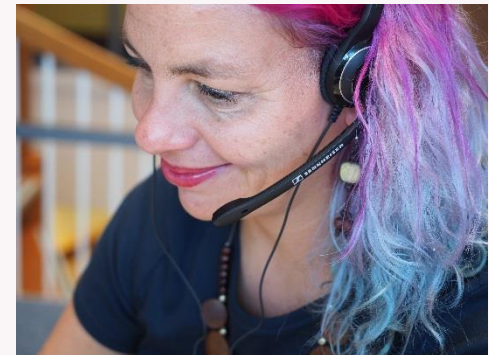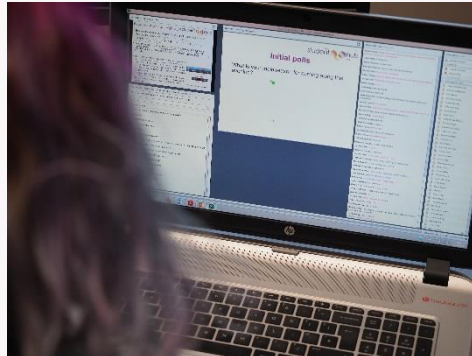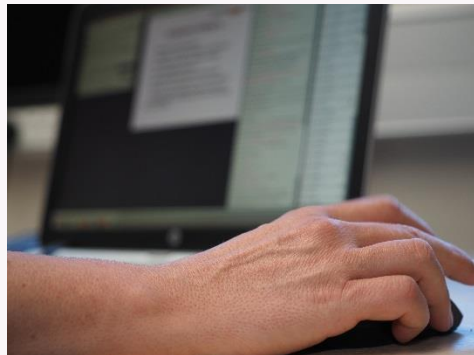What would you consider is your main area of study?
- Arts
- Languages (English & other)
- Social sciences
- Business and law
- Science
- Engineering or technology
- Maths
- Health sciences
- Education
- Sports
- OTHER

Have you been to any student hub live online events before?

- No (I'm brand new!)

- No (but have listened to one or more recording)

- Yes this year (any 2020)

- Yes last year (any 2019)

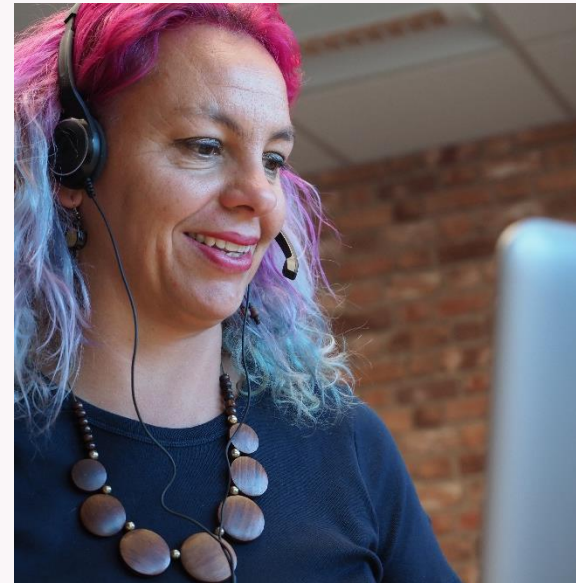- Yes other

What are student hub live online sessions?

- All student hub live sessions are non modular and focus on skills relevant to study at university level

- Polls are anonymous to other participants but the chat box will have your logged in name associated with your comments

- All online sessions are recorded and available to view on catch up on a public facing website.

- Slides are available to download during the session and from the main website

student hub live is the OU's live online interactive platform to support academic community

Karen Foley is a lecturer at the OU, head of student hub live and chairs Y032. She also tutors in social sciences, psychology and science.

Isabella Henman is an essay writing aficionado and skills trainer. She tutors in science and health sciences at Access to level 2.

Initial polls

What is your main reason for coming along to this session?

Are you currently...? (please choose the one that is closest)

- Brand new to OU study (started 2020)

- New in 2019

- Have done at least one previous OU module (in last few years)

- Have done at least one previous OU module (many years ago)

New to the OU – whistle-stop tour and essential first tasks

This was our advert…

This hour-long online workshop is aimed at new starters who may not have managed to get up to speed yet with their studies. We'll show you the important things you need to access first, and also outline the sources of support available to you and discuss how to make the most of these. For busy people we'll cover a few time management techniques and also talk about how to identify SMART objectives so that you can effectively get up to speed with your studies if life has got in the way. For any student at any level, this practical session will give you ideas to get back on track and you'll have the opportunity to chat to other OU students.

Workshop

- This is going to be a structured workshop covering some of the basics about how to study at the OU

- We'll give some tutor advice about strategies for ensuring you look at the right things early on and have yourself a useful plan

- There is a lot of interaction so please be ready to answer polls (questions) or add to chat pod during the session

- You'll also get the chance to discuss things with others in the chat pod (if you want to)

Session purpose

Is for:

- Covering general study information

- Give some guidance about focusing on main themes about how to study with the OU

- Provide a space to share ideas and connect with other students

Is not for:

- Telling you what you HAVE to do

- Providing any module specific advice

First thoughts

Why are you studying?

- Please use the poll pod provided to give the main reason why you are studying the module you are

Reasons for studying

These are some of our suggestions based on common reasons we have seen before

- Need qualification for a promotion / new job

- Part of current job requirement

- Want to change life focus

- Just want to learn

- Testing the waters for future learning

Time management resources

- https://help.open.ac.uk/time-management-skills
- There are lots of resources available for time management
- Be realistic and balance what you want to achieve
- Balance time available, effort needed and eventual outcome
- Sometimes planning will help save time, other times just getting on will be the most efficient option
- Planning your time is the best way to know what you are or are not achieving

Where are you? Poll time

Modules that began in February are now in week 4 – how do you feel your study has been going over those first weeks? Please select the option that most applies to you from the poll options provided related to your module calendar.

- Great – I am keeping up and even slightly ahead

- Good – I am keeping up and on the current week

- OK – I am almost keeping up and on the last week

- Not so good – I am a couple of weeks behind

- Awful – I haven't really started at all

If you are behind

- Firstly keep in touch with your tutor who can suggest strategies specific for your module

- Be realistic about what you want to achieve overall and for in the moment – is it the highest grades? Personal satisfaction? A chance to test the waters? Something else?

- Use the time management resources to plan more effectively moving forward (if that is possible)

Strategically catching up

- It is important to identify what you need to do now, and what you can do later

- There may also be areas you can "park"

- It is therefore important to understand the priorities. Very often this relates to the assessment, so find out when that is due and what it involves

- Your tutor is the best person to help you make a plan for what to cover and in what timescale

- It is better to get on track with a good enough job than to everything perfectly.

Setting priorities

How good would you say you are at setting (and keeping to) priorities in general?

- Great
- Good
- OK
- Not so good
- Always get distracted by fun things!

Four-square grid

Write down your tasks within this grid. First do the things that are both urgent AND important!

	Important	Unimportant
Urgent		
Not urgent		

Balancing your time for you

- Know how many recommended hours are suggested for your module

- Think about what you may need to give up to make space

- Think about how you can be creative – study on the move, thinking space when walking the dog

- Make sure that you are giving up as many things that are lower priorities

- Make sure that you include some important tasks, ideally as rewards for effective study

SMART objectives

- **s**pecific,
- **m**easurable,
- **a**chievable,
- **r**ealistic and,
- **t**imely (or time-bound)

Strategies from other students

- Identify a study goal and make it SMART

- Have the bigger picture in mind – and know how your task fits into the bigger scheme

- Little and often is better

- Trying to study for 3 hours without a break will be counterproductive and you will probably end up tired and fed up with it all!

- There are different levels study intensity, watching a video can require less attention than reading dense text

- Reward yourself for successful study

OU 101

Key places

- Studenthome
- Your module website
- Qualifications website
- Library
- Careers and Employability Service

Studenthome

Module website

Use the study calendar & planner:

the student hub live

My SDK100 Calendar 2020B
SDK100 Science and health: an evidence-based approach

Week	Start date	Study	Study plan for each week	Assignment cut-off date
0		Induction activities		

⤷ Topic 1 Section 3

So many pathogens – continue by reading subsections 3.2–3.9 *(study time about 6 hours)*

⤷ Topic 1 Section 4

Global status report on infectious disease *(study time about 6.5 hours)*

⤷ Topic 1 Section 5

Risk factors for infectious disease – read just to the end of subsection 5.3 *(study time about 3.5 hours)*

📋 Topic 1 quiz

When you have completed Week 2 you should be able to answer Questions 11–22.

| 2 | | Topic 1 infectious disease (Sections 3–5) 8–14 February | | completed |

Activities

Activity 3.2 What does work mean to you?

🕐 *This activity should take about 20 minutes*

This activity has two tasks

Task 1

Make notes in the text boxes or, if you prefer, in your learning notebook, in answer to the following questions. You only need to write a few words or a sentence for each answer but do spend a couple of minutes thinking about and reflecting on your answers. You don't need to worry about making your answer perfect; this is just a chance to think about your own views.

- What does 'work' mean to you?

[text box]

[Save] [Reset]

- What 'work' do you do now, or have you done in the past?

[text box]

[Save] [Reset]

Forums

- Depending on the module there may be a welcome forum, topic forums, cluster forum and tutor group forum

- Please look very carefully at any instructions about where to post messages

- New messages in any forum can be seen in recent activity (module website > right hand side > scroll down)

- **Subscribe** to discussions that are relevant

- **Search** for discussions

Assessment

- Most assignments (called tutor marked assignments – TMAs) are submitted electronically

- There is a dedicated system called the eTMA system where you upload your completed work. Your tutor will then collect after the deadline and return the marked work, through the same system within 10 working days after the deadline

- Try the eTMA system with a dummy TMA

TMA/EMA service >

Why does assessment exist?

- Assessment exists to allow you to know whether you are learning what you need to, and whether the module is delivering what it says it will.

- Think about it as a checklist of achievement

- It's all very well saying you know something but this way you can prove it

- Likewise you know where you need to focus efforts moving forward

TMAs

TMA stands for tutor marked assignment as it is the work that you are doing (assignment) that goes to your tutor through the electronic TMA system and enables them to provide feedback which you then read and act upon. ***Remember to read the feedback and act upon it!!***

You will very likely find that TMAs will get gradually more complex as you progress through the module – don't worry about this it is totally normal – you will be building and growing so gaining more understanding.

Important things!

- There will be some deadlines so you are going to have to plan to meet them

- write down any deadlines as soon as you start – ideally somewhere visable. Tell others

- If available print out the study calendar and stick on the wall or add key dates to your existing calendars

- It is important to understand the assessment for the module. Is there an exam? Are there iCMAs? What is every assignment worth?

Useful services option

Information polls

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- Yes other

Discussion activity

- There will be 2 specific questions in chat pods for you to explore some of the elements we have discussed further.

- *I feel confident and able to manage my study when ...?*

- *I'd like to improve the way I manage my study by...?*

- You are welcome to add your thoughts and we will then pick up some of the themes and talk through them.

- Chat does have names on but the recording will be anonymised so you will appears as 'user number'

Take home message

- Studying at the OU offers flexibility to study around other commitments although there are fixed deadlines and other set events that need to be scheduled into a diary / calendar

- As an adult learner you will need to take responsibility for your own learning, but have access to lots of support and advice

- Thinking carefully about why you are studying and how you can manage this is needed to allow this to work overall

Final polls

What do you feel is the main thing you will take away from this session?

What are you going to do as a result of today's session?

Which of the following elements of today's session did you find useful?

- Tutor led explanation
- Opportunity to chat in text chat box
- Opportunity to suggest ideas in polls
- Opportunity to read ideas suggested in polls
- Discussion activity (chance to read other ideas suggested)
- Discussion activity (chance to suggest my own reasons)
- Discussion activity (hearing overall themes discussed)
- Any other aspect (please give details in chat)

Upcoming workshops

Essay writing, Report writing, Developing a good academic argument

Details, booking and catch up
http://studenthublive.open.ac.uk/

studenthub@open.ac.uk