

# Session description



- Do you find yourself sometimes wishing you were more focused and less easily distracted by other things?
- From the basics of being able to get started in the first place to maintaining concentration on study, we can all hone our procrastination 'skills', sometimes to our detriment. In response to many requests, this new workshop takes a look at some of the reasons for procrastination. In it you will help develop a toolkit to streamline efficiency, making you as effective as possible. Whether you're preparing for a forthcoming EMA or exam, or are relatively new to study, there will be strategies to help everyone to just get on with it!

# What are SHL workshops?



- Studenthublive is non modular and focuses on study skills relevant to higher education
- This means all sessions are skills based and are not subject based. We cannot provide subject/ faculty related sessions
- SHL workshops do not take the place of tutorials provided by your modules
- All events are always advertised on our website along with studenthome news, social media channels and careers sources
- All events are bookable; workshops do fill up as they are popular

# Online workshop basics



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

# Today's workshop



- This is going to be a structured workshop to help you think about issues of motivation, distraction and procrastination
- We use illustrations and examples to get you thinking, as well as providing specific suggestions and ideas to consider the topic further
- There is a lot of interaction so please be ready to answer polls (questions) or add to chat pod during the session, as you find comfortable
- You'll get the chance to share ideas with others and learn from each other

## Please be aware



- These sessions are large scale
- They are very busy
- There is lots of interaction
- They are not the same as other tutorials
- You can maximise slides on your own screen by clicking the icon
- You can also feel free to ignore the chat if it is too distracting for you personally



# Inclusivity



- We welcome all students at our workshops.
- Please do be aware that they can be very busy and some students may struggle with the non-scripted nature.
- Slides are available to download within the live session and from the event page on the studenthublive website at <https://studenthublive.open.ac.uk/content/tackling-procrastination-successfully-20224> to follow along or prepare for what will come up.

# Please



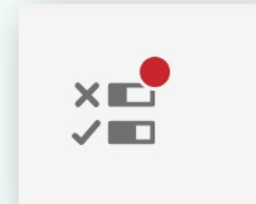
- Do NOT share any personal information in the chat pod during the session.
- On the recording names will be anonymised to user number.
- However, if you type anyone's full name or any other personal information in the chat pod it can be seen by everybody and it would also show up on the recording so we would not be able to make the recording available after the session.

# What do you want to learn?



Using the short answer poll provided please say what you are hoping to learn from today's session

(If you are on a mobile device remember you need to tap into the polling option)



To come back to these slides after completing a poll click on the share pod slides icon





# Tackling procrastination successfully

# What is procrastination?



- Procrastination is the art of putting things off intentionally or habitually
- Usually this means putting all tasks together at the end of time available

# First thoughts poll



- If you have an hour (or a couple of hours but not days) of free time what activity would you most like to do (or do you do)? Please use the short answer poll pod provided to give your answer

## Now say why



- Next say why you chose the activity you mentioned, again please use the short answer poll provided to give your answer

# Considering motivations



- We asked the question as sometimes personal preferences and motivations can come out when answering questions like this:
  - Relaxation
  - Health
  - Likes / Interests
  - Successes

We'll come back to motivation later ...

# Making use of help

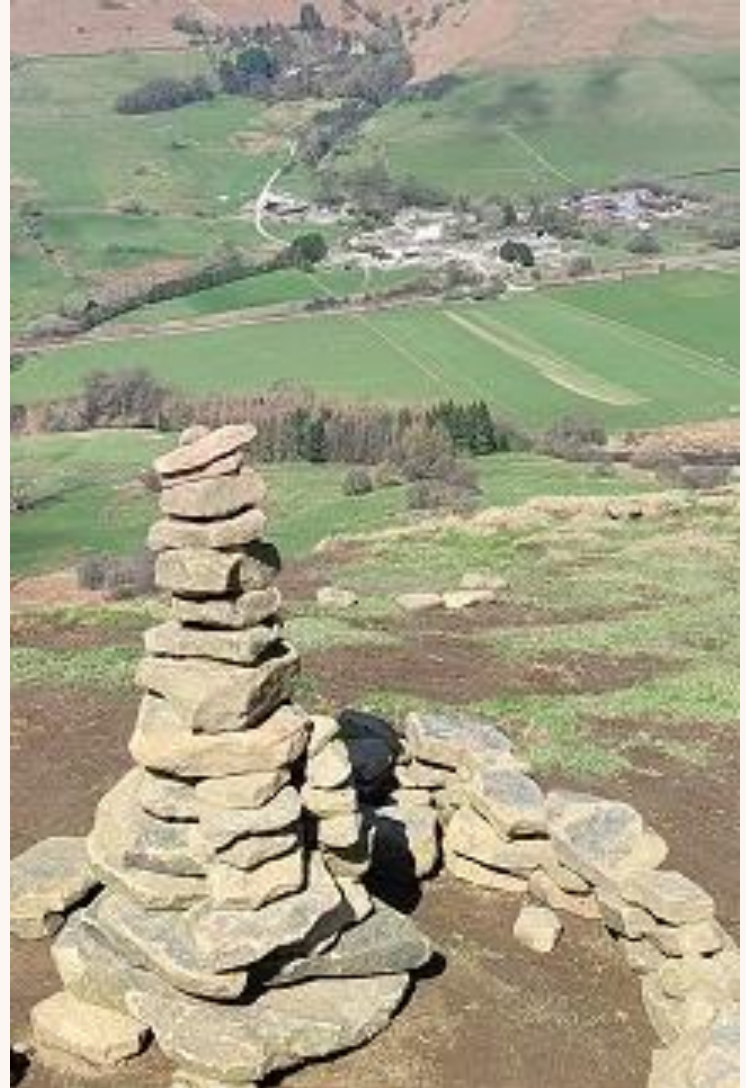


- Carer network
- Disability support team
- Student support team
- Open University students association
- Module forums
- Family/friends

We can't unfortunately find more time or solve all problems for you but can give some ideas for you to work with

# What do you see here?

- Look at this picture and use the short answer poll to say what you see



# Perception



- Seeing and perceiving
- Difference between describing and explaining
- Perception is based on experience
- We believe the information that our senses pass to us is an accurate representation of our world but we also integrate that with our past experiences of the world



# Why is this relevant?



- Past experiences influence current actions
- Many of us do things because we always have, have been taught / modelled a specific way or think we should
- Procrastination may be based on past experiences

- I am aware that some in the neurodiverse community have particular struggles with motivations, distractions, managing time and activities and may resent any suggestions.
- This session does not have the scope to cover these issues but please do consider watching one of the past ND community event recordings and book in to share ideas at a future session.

# Distractions word cloud



- Using the option to type in where it says enter word here say **What is the main thing that distracts you when you are trying to study?**
- Note that suggestions need to be single words rather than phrases, if you press the space button your first word will go through.
- A word cloud is built up with common answers being larger so we can see if there are patterns

Enter word here

# Distractions

- Many distractions can be quite personal although there are common ones
- It is a balancing act to be able to study alongside other life issues but recognising distractions and doing something about them can help



# Isabella's distractions



- I have interests and I like to find out what's happening with them
- I like variety
- I like to be prepared
- FOMO!
- I allow myself [to be distracted] as a treat at times

# Allowing distractions?



- Please give your answers in the poll pod provided about why you allow yourself to get distracted
- Remember it's absolutely fine to say I don't know and we aren't being negative, but sometimes recognising reasons can help to tackle them

# Isabella's procrastination whys



- I'm not interested [enough] in something
- I am more interested in something else
- I can't see the value
- I've had negative experiences of the thing before

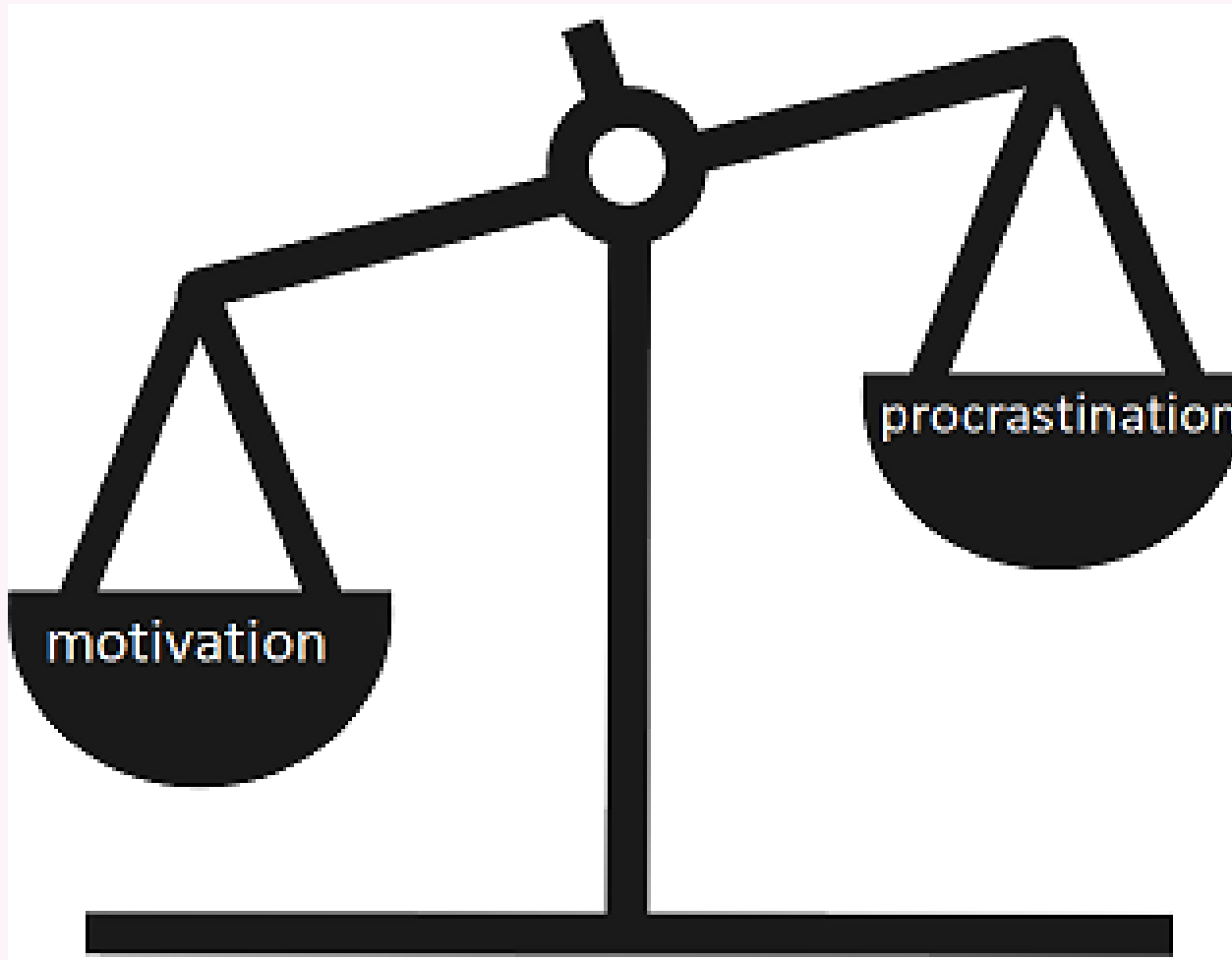
# Your procrastination



- Please use the short answer poll to say if there's anything that you've identified that causes you to procrastinate



# Procrastination V motivation



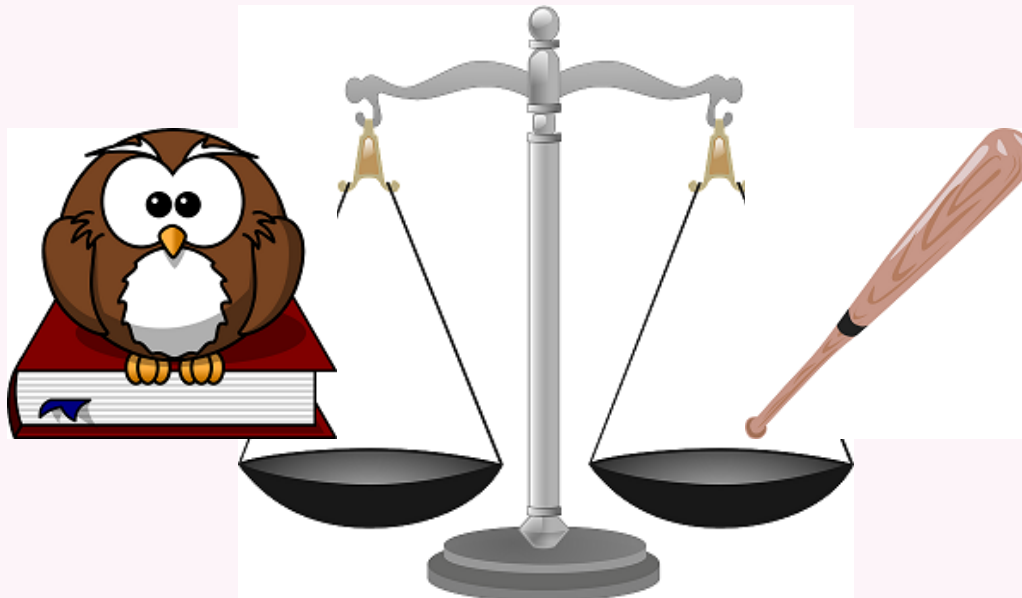
# Motivation



- Extrinsic motivation
- Goal based motivation
- Intrinsic motivation

# Extrinsic motivation

- This is motivation that comes from outside of the individual
- Benefit- guidance from outside ourselves
- Downside - could also be thought of as the stick method



# Goal based motivation

- This is motivation that comes from aiming to achieve specific goals
- Benefit – a specific purpose and target which can be achieved
- Downside – obstacles or failure to meet the goal removes motivation



# Intrinsic motivation



- This is motivation that comes from within the individual
- Benefit – it means something to the individual
- Downside – there needs to be a clear target [for the motivation] for it to be generated in the first place



## Overall...

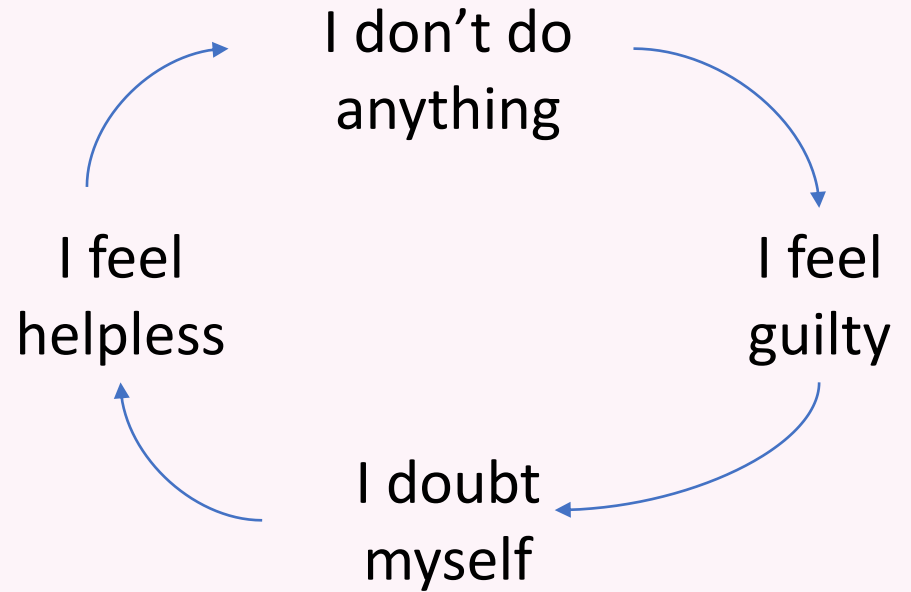


- Intrinsic motivation is ideally best as it is about what you as a student want to achieve, not what someone tells you that you have to do

# What procrastination isn't?



- Laziness...



- Relaxation!

# Styles of procrastination



- Perfectionist
- Worrier
- Pleaser
- Dreamer
- Crisis maker
- Defier

The first three are motivated by avoiding negative feelings

The second three are motivated by boredom and frustration



# Perfectionist

- Wants everything to be perfect
- All or nothing thinking
- Fear of failure
- Doesn't complete a task just in case it isn't perfect



# Worrier

- What if...
- I can't...
- Perceive all the potential problems and sees the failure
- Don't even start a task, to avoid experiencing the negative emotions of not succeeding



# Pleaser

- Can't say no
- Just too busy
- Hates to ask for help (doesn't want to bother anyone)
- Strong need for approval from others



# Dreamer

- Creative
- Lots of ideas
- Doesn't follow through
- Waiting for an opportunity to drop into the lap as shouldn't have to work for dreams



# Crisis maker

- It's boring / I don't feel like it
- Always something else to do first
- Only starts when something makes them (which could be the deadline in a few hours)
- Needs a crisis to actually get going e.g. the stress or pressure because 'it makes them better'



# Defier

- Independent
- Shouldn't have to do the task so puts it off
- Balks at doing tasks
- Becomes annoyed if someone tells them what to do



# Identifying in yourself



- Which of the six types of procrastinator have you observed in yourself? (You can choose more than one)
- Perfectionist
- Worrier
- Pleaser
- Dreamer
- Crisis maker
- Defier
- None / don't really know

# What can you do?



- Remove the blockage of what makes the task hard to do
- Visualise what might happen if you do it compared to what might happen if you don't do it
- Reframe your thinking from the anxiety to a benefit



# Locus of control



- Internal locus of control – **you** make things happen, you can affect outcomes through effort and ability
- External locus of control – things happen **to you** and outside forces like fate make things happen
  - **I control my destiny**
  - OR**
  - **Others control my destiny**

# Isabella's avoidance of procrastination



- Focus on responsibility (not in a negative way)
- Tick lists being motivational
- Have set times to do 'fun tasks'
- Simply switch off – phone is on silent and face down

# Is it that easy?



- Get ideas about what works for other people to consider whether it might work for you
- These workshops are community events so you can learn from each other
- We ask lots of questions so you can ask and answer questions and consider different approaches
- Everyone is an individual so there is no one method that will always work.

# Final questions



- Are there any further questions or suggestions you have about procrastination? Please use either the chat or short answer poll pod and we will do our best to address as we can although we can't solve everything.

# Take home message



- Everyone procrastinates but identifying triggers / reasons can help to avoid them
- Make use of the support that exists
- Focus on the end goal

# Feedback



Please complete the feedback form that is available

at <https://forms.office.com/e/e7eGk7aw8y>

This is immensely valuable to provide information on how studenthublive is beneficial to students as well as to help us plan our future programme

(Please remember that as studenthublive is non modular we cannot provide subject based sessions- sorry!)

# Upcoming events



- 28 Feb 7pm Introduction to essay writing (Beginners)
- 6 Mar 7pm Developing your essay writing (Intermediate)
- 13 Mar 11am Understanding your assignment questions
- 19 Mar 11am Introduction to critical thinking
- **21 Mar 11am Studying when you think different live broadcast**
- 26 Mar 11am Developing your critical thinking (Intermediate)

For more information on all past and upcoming events, go to <http://studenthublive.open.ac.uk/>