

Session description



- As you finish one module you will no doubt be looking towards the next and for many students the next module will be at the next level up. Every module brings its own knowledge and understanding that studying at a new level can bring additional considerations. In this new workshop we will be considering some tools and strategies to help you move up the levels as well as sharing ideas.

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 <https://studenthublive.open.ac.uk/content/moving-levels-building-your-experience-5-june-2025> .

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



- 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/moving-levels-building-your-experience-5-june-2025> to follow along or prepare for what will come up.

Please



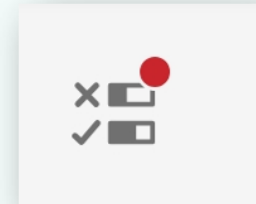
- Do NOT share any personal information in the chat pod during the session.
- On the recording names will be anonymised to user number.
- However, if you type anyone's full name or any other personal information in the chat pod it can be seen by everybody and it would also show up on the recording so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



Moving on levels: building on your experience

My cohost today



- Anton is an Educational Adviser from the Student Support Team in FBL/WELS. In his words:
- I have been working for the OU since 2016. I have previously studied with the Open University completing NVQs and a Postgraduate qualification. I am also part of the EDI (equality, diversity and inclusion) Champions group.

What best represents where you are?



Using the poll options available please indicate which best represents your current study situation. Note first option is for currently studying [can mean just submitted final assessment]:

- Access moving to level 1
- Access finishing here
- Level 1 have more level 1 to do
- Level 1 moving to level 2
- Level 1 finishing here
- Level 2 have more level 2 to do
- Level 2 finishing here
- Level 2 moving to level 3
- Level 3 have more level 3 to do
- Level 3 finishing here
- Level 3 moving to postgraduate
- Any level not sure what to do

What are your questions?



- Please use the short answer poll provided to say **what your main questions are about moving on levels in your study.**
- We will hopefully cover many of these along the way, or signpost where you may need to look

Time management

Considering if you have the time

How many credits



- How many credits have you been doing in the last year?
 - 30
 - 60
 - 90
 - 120

Reminders of credits



- 30 credits = 300 hours so usually 8–10 hours per week (unless short and fat module)
- 60 credits = 600 hours so 16–20 hours per week
- You may need more.

How many hours per week



- How many hours per week have you realistically been studying in your current / recent module? Please type in the poll available.
- This helps to recognise what you are doing compared to recommendations

Everyone is different



- The university gives time expectations and we strongly recommend you have the available time each and every study week.
- Some students can make a considered decision based on their own situation whether they have the time to study what they commit to.
- What some students can manage and achieve in an hour is different to what others can. This does not make anyone better / worse than anyone else.

Is your priority?



- When considering your time and study which of these is most relevant to you?
 - Getting the study done as soon as possible
 - Getting as much enjoyment out of study?
 - Completing for employment
 - Something else (tell us in chat)

Why did we ask this?



- Different students have different priorities and this can impact the way they study.
- As we covered earlier, this does not make anyone better or worse than anyone else.

We want you to be well 😊



- Be aware if you register for more study that you have time for, this can have mental, physical and practical implications.
- You can not assume you can always have an extension on a TMA because you didn't have enough time.
- This may be about managing your own expectations and being realistic about what you can do **now**

Non allocated study time



- Each module has directed study which is expected but also includes hours which are not allocated.
- These are for you to build skills, attend tutorials and make sure **you** understand what **you** are studying and using as well as possible.
- It is **your** responsibility to do this!

Time management tips



- Make sure you have the required time to study as well as contingency time
- Have or will your personal circumstances changed? This can impact time available.
- The student home help centre has more advice on [time management](#).
- We (SHL) have also done many sessions on time management.

Over to you



- Please use the short answer poll pod available to **share your best time management tips**
- Hopefully there will be some great ones shared 😊

Academic content

Differences in levels

Milestone qualifications



- You can do different qualifications depending on what you feel able to commit to:
- Certificate (120 credits at level 1)
- Diploma (120 credits at level 2 as well)
- Degree (120 credits at level 3 as well)

What might change?



- Level 1 is introductory and setting you up with the basic skills.
- Many modules are quite broad to cover many concepts and then give you the basis on which to develop.
- As you move up levels you will become more specialised in a subject area.
- By level 3 you will be much more specialised

Building on foundations



- You will be expected to build your skills so they are not retaught each time.
- So – if you have covered things in level 1 it is expected that you use them in level 2 (and so on).
- If you find something hard then use the non allocated study time to build those skills.

Be realistic



- If you struggled a lot in level 1 do you want to step up levels and time?
- Might you need to take some leave from work to commit to study? Or even reduce work hours?
- Can you delegate some responsibilities?
- Can you still do everything you have been with what is now needed?

TMA's longer or detailed



- There may be more required which needs thinking about.
- This could be additional activities or different styles of communication.

Referencing



- There is less leniency as you move up levels as you are expected to have got the skill sorted 😊
- (this is something that fits into the building on levels aspect)
- Always use the guidance in your module as there are differences
- The library does great sessions, both live and recorded.

Tutor support

And independence

Increasing independence



- You will always have a named allocated tutor
- The OU is still a resource based university where you are usually provided with the materials you need for your learning.
- Higher levels need more critical analysis and evaluation of content and your tutor will encourage your thought development

Independent learning poll



- Please use the short poll provided to answer the question **which is your preferred way to contact (and make use of) your tutor?**

Access to level 1

A different situation

Key differences



- Whilst you have an allocated tutor the main support is not one to one phone calls but one to many online tutorials.
- This doesn't mean you can't contact your tutor but just that the link is not quite the same.

Practical issues

Registration, Funding, deadlines

Fees and funding



- You do need to apply each year
- Apply in plenty of time

Disabled students allowance 1

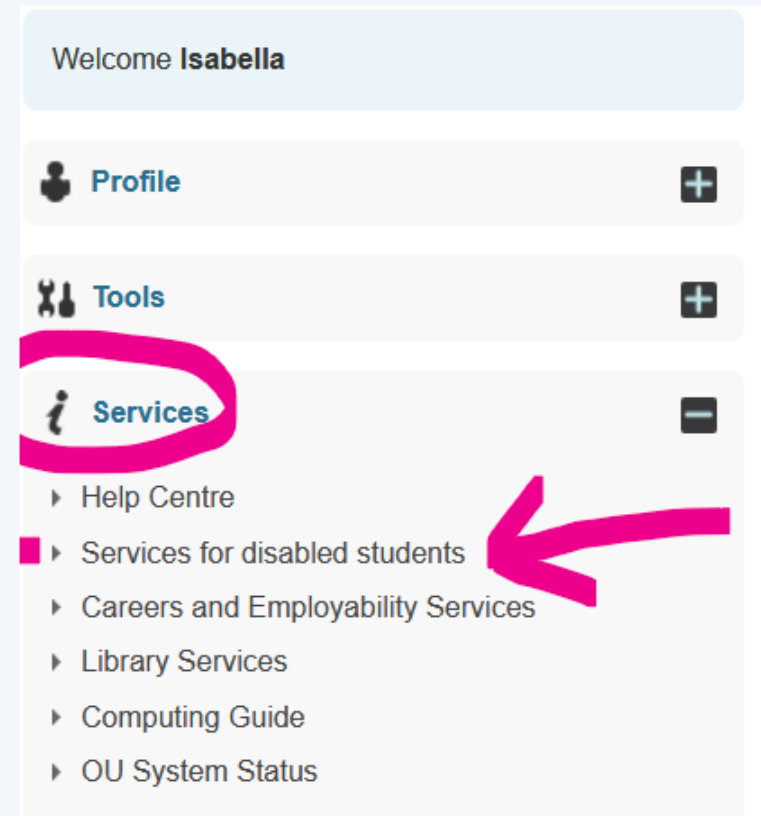


- DSA
- <https://www.gov.uk/disabled-students-allowance-dsa>
- <https://help.open.ac.uk/dsa-overview>
- Please note that the OU can not apply on your behalf but all students who declare a disability are encouraged to apply for the DSA as it is there to support them.
- The OU also does not govern what is provided and cannot guarantee what would be provided.

Disabled students allowance 2



- We can not guarantee anything but do encourage you to engage with your disability support team. Contact them through the option from studenthome in the services option
- <https://help.open.ac.uk/browse/disability>



Study related costs



- <https://www.open.ac.uk/courses/fees-and-funding/study-related-costs-funding>
- Examples may be support with broadband, provision of a large white board, special overlays to support reading on screen.
- Note we cannot guarantee anything but it is worth exploring and asking – you never know 😊

OU community and support



- <https://community.open.ac.uk/> showcases community within the OU (including studenthublive!)
- [OUSA disabled students group](#) have regular meet ups as well as other support
- OUSA have various [events](#)
- [National support network](#)

Autumn study



- Most modules begin on or around Saturday 4th October (some may be the week before)
- The deadline for autumn registration is Thursday September 11th

Final questions



- Are there any further questions or suggestions you have about moving between levels? 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



- Moving between levels requires different skills.
- There will be further cognitive challenges but also a requirement for more independence the higher the level is
- Be realistic about what you want to achieve and when
- Maybe use the time between modules to boost some of the study skills

Feedback



Please complete the feedback form that is available at

<https://forms.office.com/e/91LkRb7eHD>

Selected upcoming events



- 11 Jun 11am Support for student carers community session
- 12 Jun 11am Let's talk research – Q&A with librarians
- 24 Jun 7pm SHL end of year party
- 8 Jul 4pm Taking stock of what works
- 10 Jul 11am Keeping motivation for study

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