

# Thriving in an online learning environment –tips from students

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What is the student experience of online learning?

Comments are from 2<sup>nd</sup> year students during a recent online discussion

## 1 Learning from recorded lectures

- Listen at your 'own' speed (slow, fast, pause)
- Make notes, mind maps
- Go back over anything that's unclear
- Use captions
- Discuss 'difficult' topics with peers
- [e-mail](#) the lecturer for clarification
- Consult additional sources



## 3 Participating in discussions

- Come prepared
- Don't be afraid to be wrong
- Ask questions, be curious
- Be respectful, polite; compromise your views
- Use mics for engagement
- Encourage others to participate



## 5 Online group work

- Communicate regularly
- Ensure that all have a chance to contribute
- Assign tasks to each member; delegate
- Cooperate and collaborate
- Motivate each other; provide encouragement



## 2 Writing up lab reports

- Start, don't procrastinate
- Use available resources
- Follow grading criteria
- Use feedback from previous reports
- Complete sections one by one
- Get a peer to proofread



## 4 Managing the workload

- Make a to-do list
- Spread the workload
- Get things done sooner rather than later
- Make breaks enjoyable, rewarding
- Ask for help if you are struggling
- Look after yourself, know your limits



## 6 Group presentations

- Construct a plan
- Minimise text; use bullet points
- Set regular, achievable group deadlines
- Make a script (but don't read from it)
- Practice timing; listen before submitting



## 7 Conclusions: learning from students

### Important take-home\* messages: students to students:

- "Don't worry—you are not alone"
- "If you are stressed/behind remember to reach out to classmates/lecturers"
- Enjoy –you are learning something



### Important take-home\* messages: students to staff:

- **We are learning to learn in the online environment**
- We care for each other
- We care for ourselves



\*well, OK, you do not need to take the message anywhere because you are already at home ☺