



Strategies for Learning

Overview:

This document describes the ways in which you can enhance your learning by focusing on the techniques, approaches and practices you use whilst you are studying at 42 Abu Dhabi. These are collectively referred to as **Strategies for Learning**.

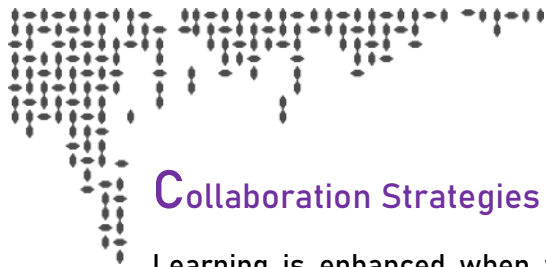
In simple terms, a learning strategy describes the ways in which you plan, organise, operationalise and evaluate your activities to acquire and store knowledge and / or complete tasks effectively and efficiently.

To help you, we have identified five components of an effectively strategy for learning. These components combine to form the 42 Abu Dhabi **CODER Strategy for Learning**.

The components of the CODER Strategy for learning are:

- Collaboration Strategies
- Organizational Strategies
- Deepening and Connecting Strategies
- Engagement Strategies
- Reflective Strategies





Collaboration Strategies

Learning is enhanced when we create opportunities to discuss our ideas, seek alternative perspectives and have our work scrutinised by our 'critical friend(s)'. Great collaborations develop our understanding of the project, our coding skills and simultaneously develop our transferable skills (for example, our listening skills, verbal and non-verbal communication skills and consensus building skills).

Develop and strengthen your **Collaborative Learning Strategy** by:

- ❖ Creating a mutually respectful and welcoming personal aura
- ❖ Developing a positive culture of sharing ideas, concepts and knowledge
- ❖ Cultivating a 'feedback seeking behavior', and seeking to engage with (and benefit from) students with different levels of experience, expertise and alternative ways of thinking
- ❖ Using the project evaluations to create a learning conversation¹
- ❖ Asking-and-answering questions in a helpful, motivational and non-confrontational manner²

Organizational Strategies

Learning is enhanced when we are organised and take deliberate steps to plan and manage our activities and work on projects

Develop and strengthen your **Organizational Strategy** by:

- ❖ Reading the Project Subject (and the Marking Scale) to ensure you know exactly what is required in the project submission (and associated evaluation)
- ❖ Creating Project Submission and Learning Plans (including adding intermediate milestones) identifying also the areas you need to investigate and actions needed to investigate them
- ❖ Enacting and regularly reviewing your Project Plan, and taking corrective action when you deviate from your Project Plan
- ❖ Organizing your time and any other commitments enabling you to commit to the project task(s) without distractions
- ❖ Choosing group members who are committed to similar project timelines

¹ See our guide on Creating AWESWOME Evaluations

² See our guide on Questioning for Learning





Deepening and Connecting Strategies

Learning is enhanced when we actively seek to deepen our knowledge, make connections between topics, and are able to abstract small details to larger themes

Develop and strengthen your **Connecting Strategies** by:

- ❖ Developing your conceptual understanding (deep approach to learning) and avoiding a focus on memorization (surface approach to learning)
- ❖ Classifying the task / project material / learning by themes / concepts, and linking new learned knowledge to previously gained knowledge
- ❖ Constructing analogies and being able to describe what you have learned in different ways / formats and to different audiences
- ❖ Honing an intellectual curiosity such that you actively seek new learning in each project
- ❖ Having a growth mindset in which you actively seek to learn from setbacks

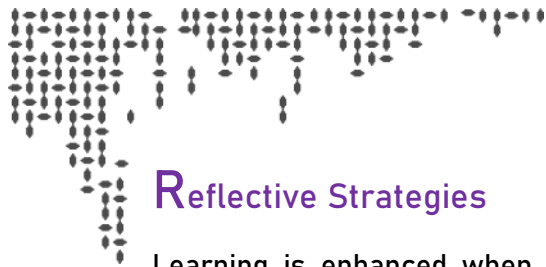
Engagement Strategies

Learning is not a spectator sport. Meaningful learning is only achieved when we are committed, and engage intentionally, fulsomely and regularly.

Develop and strengthen your **Engagement Strategies** by:

- ❖ Deploying a study pattern that evenly distributes your efforts over the day, weeks and months. You should be spending around 30-35 hours per week on your 42 AD studies
- ❖ Helping your study pattern to become an 'engagement habit'
- ❖ Plan how to use your study time so that your effort leads to learning and not 'busy work'
- ❖ Recognize own progress and achievements, and make connections of that success to your study pattern
- ❖ Modify your study pattern, form a new engagement habit, if you are not making sufficient progress





Reflective Strategies

Learning is enhanced when we take 'intentional action' and reflect on our effort, learning strategies and performance, and ask ourselves *"how well are these supporting my chances of success?"*

Develop and strengthen your **Reflective Strategies** by:

- ❖ Regularly using (and reviewing) a log-book / learning diary / mind map to record your learning
- ❖ Seeking learning opportunities, and alternative ways to solve a problem, when you undertake peer evaluations
- ❖ Reviewing recent and past comments on previous evaluations and using those comments to help guide some of your ongoing learning³
- ❖ Systematically highlighting 'troublesome / uncertain' project concepts to focus on and developing plans to resolve the troublesome knowledge
- ❖ Seeking (gentle) advice from peers on how they perceive your strengths and opportunities for enhancement

³ See our guide on Feedback for Learning

