

Staying alive

Maintaining relevance in the online university

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Language and Learning Advisers, Flexible Learning
Academic and Peer Support



DEAKIN
UNIVERSITY

‘The digital landscape of a university can be every bit as complex as its physical structures and layouts.’ (Miller 2015)

We believe that ALL practitioners are best placed to take the lead in supporting students to develop digital literacies, which are now a fundamental part of ‘academic literacies’.

Hardware, software & connectivity requirements

Uni systems, bookings, student services online

Student portal , internal social media

LMS – quizzes,
discussions

Online classroom

Submit assignments

Turnitin

Portfolio

Library catalogue

Databases

Search engines

Digital research –
find, evaluate,
communicate

Etiquette

Privacy

Online profile

File management

File formats

Collaborative tools

e.g. OneDrive, Skype

Tools to design and
produce range of
texts

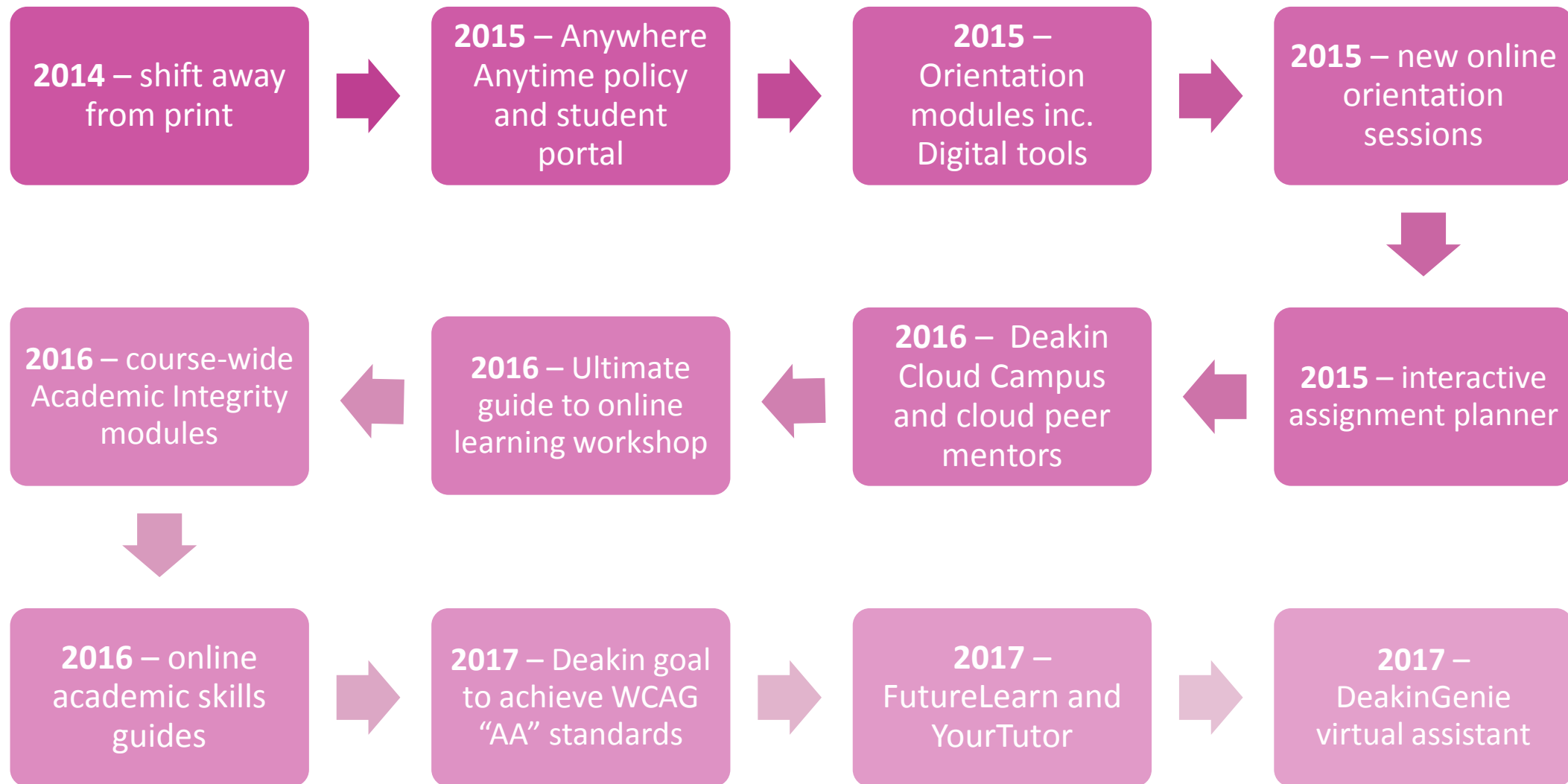
Video production

Blogging

Study apps

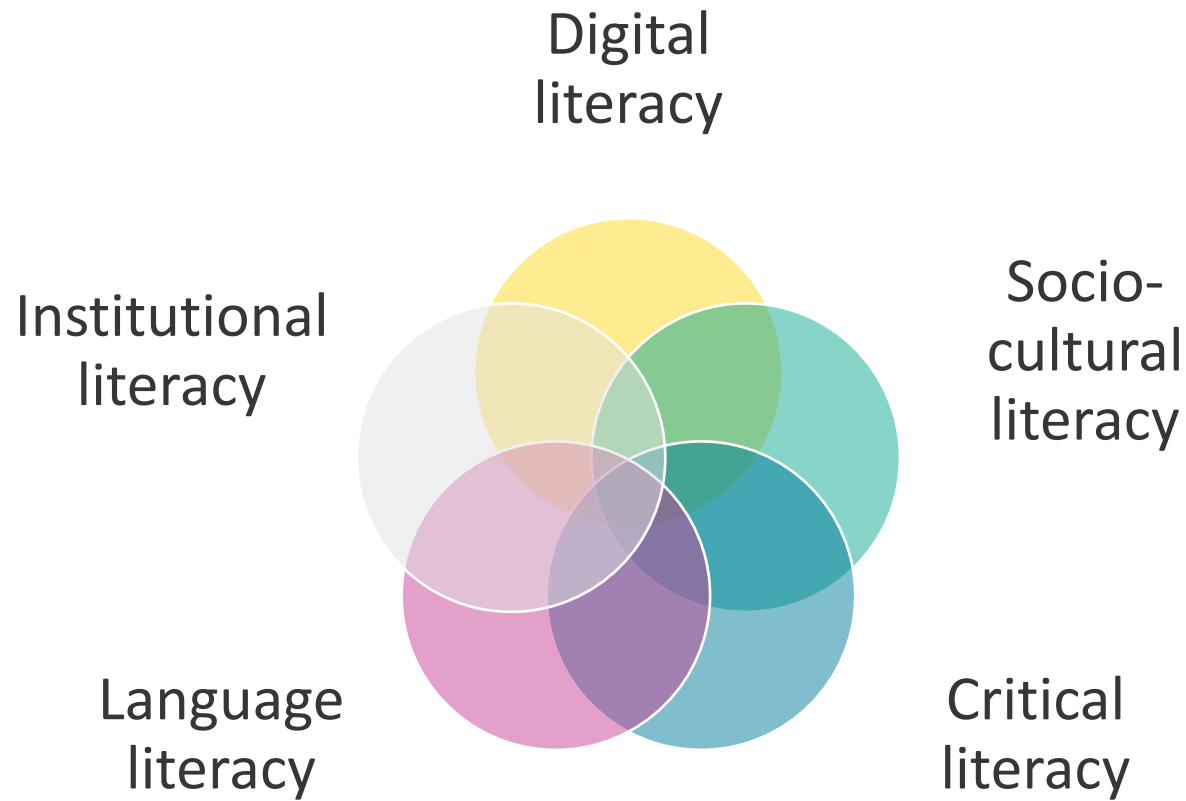
e.g. StudyBlue, OneNote

Our journey – the last 4 years at Deakin



Many online students lack digital literacies, require support specifically around online learning (O'Shea, May & Stone, 2015), and are more likely to experience isolation from the university community (Kahu, 2014; Palloff & Pratt, 2007).

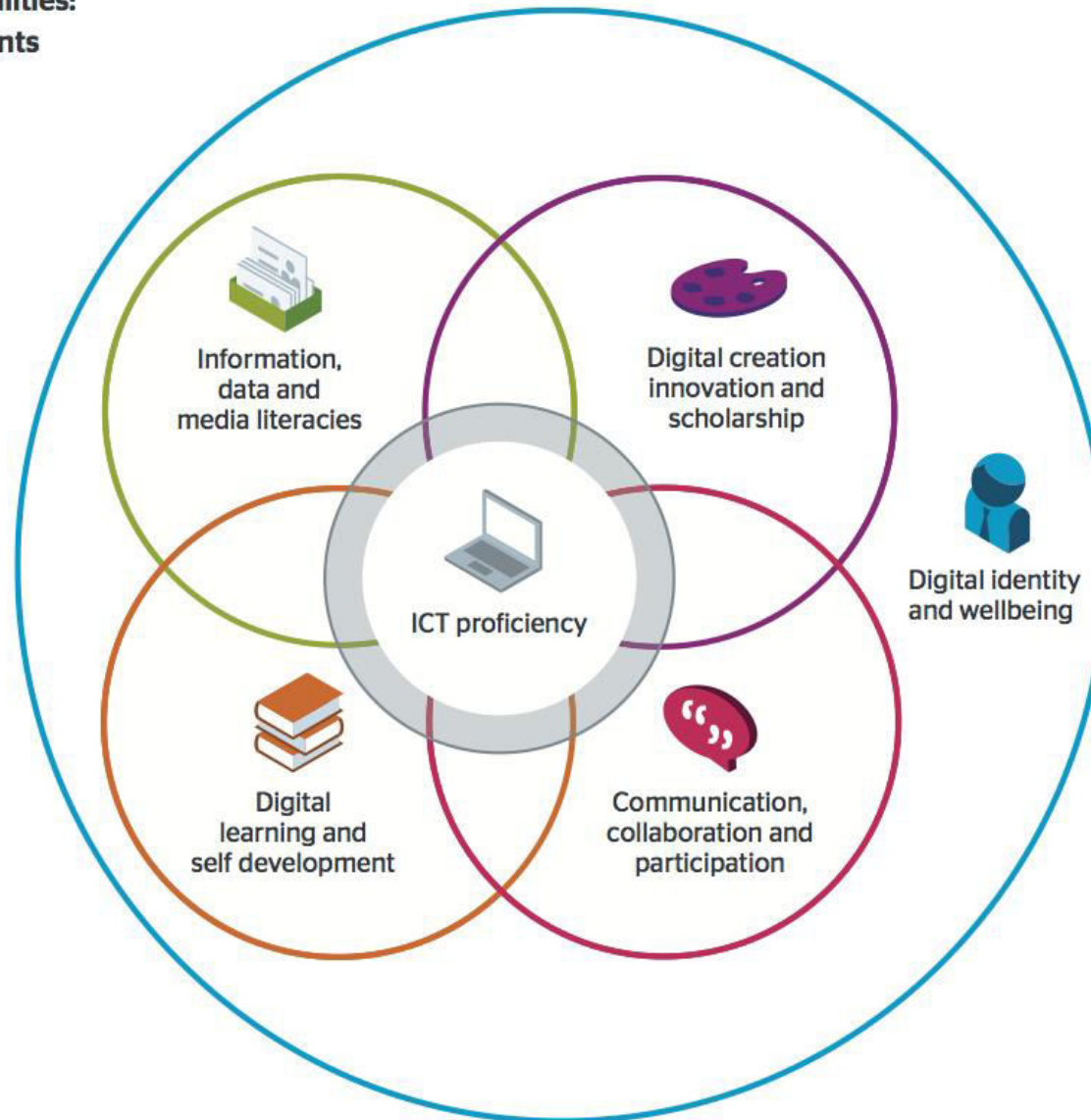
Miller (2015)
Multiliteracies framework (in JALL)



‘Technological
and digital
requirements...
can be barriers to
participation’
(Miller 2015)

Digital capabilities (JISC 2015)

Digital capabilities:
the six elements



- Intervene early
- Build a sense of belonging
- Explicitly value teacher/expert presence
- Design for online
- Build collaboration

‘Online education is
core business’

*(Cathy Stone, Opportunity through
online learning: National guidelines,
2016)*

Maintaining relevance in the online uni

1. Broaden our scope

► The Big Picture Where do I begin? Deakin and you Essential links

Online learning at Deakin

By studying online, I had to increase my self-discipline, commitment and organisational skills... I quickly found out that studying online doesn't give you any extra time to complete tasks.

Sarah Salvo, Deakin student



Deakin provides flexible study options through online learning; however, with freedom comes responsibility. Students engaged in online learning are expected to be highly independent and motivated learners. The tips below relate not only to Cloud Campus students (who attend classes and seminars in online only), but to **all Deakin students** navigating the online space.

Preparing

Trimester checklist

Support and resources

Your checklist for cloud learning

Get organised before Week 1

- Start completing the [My first trimester at Deakin checklist](#) and visit [New to Deakin](#) to get your IT set up.
- In case of technical problems, bookmark useful contacts for easy access (or keep a copy offline), e.g. unit chair/lecturer, tutor, School/Faculty, IT support, Library, Language and Learning Advisers. You can favourite useful Deakin pages in DeakinSync.
- Explore your unit sites to become familiar with the online learning space, the unit overview, assessments, weekly topics/readings, and to connect with staff and students.



Digital file management

Carefully labelling and managing files will save you a lot of stress later on! Here is just one suggestion for how you might organise your folders and files.

1. Create a folder for each **trimester** and a subfolder for each **unit**, e.g. SLE105
2. Create further sub-folders within each unit, e.g. **Readings, Notes, Assignments**, etc.
3. Under '**Readings**' you can put copies of your lecturer's PowerPoints and unit readings, as well as any other relevant readings you find.
4. Under '**Notes**', keep your own notes taken from classes, seminars, and also from readings. Try typing up any handwritten notes, so that you have everything in one place. Re-writing or typing also helps you to remember and recall information.
5. Under '**Assignments**' you can put plans, drafts and final copies of your assignments. Saving new copies of each draft is a good idea in case a file gets lost or is corrupted. Include information about the unit and the assessment in the file name, e.g. SLE105 Assessment 1_draft3
6. Finally, **ALWAYS** make a **back-up** copy of your assignment (and drafts)! You can save your files to your free Deakin OneDrive account – access via your DeakinSync login.



2. Intervene early

▶ Digital Tools Deakin online Unit sites Connect, share & collaborate Essential links

Unit site activities

Discussions Quizzes Checklists **Online classroom**

Bb Collaborate Ultra – your online classroom

In some units, you may be asked to participate in a live online classroom using **Blackboard (Bb) Collaborate** to talk in real time to staff and classmates, chat via text, share videos, presentations and other applications.

The screenshot shows the Bb Collaborate Ultra interface. On the left, a 'POLLING RESPONSE YOUR TURN!' screen displays a poll with 5 choices. The poll results are shown as a bar chart. On the right, a chat window is open with a list of participants and their messages. The chat messages include: 'ok', 'Drew Roberts: do you want to make us all participants?', 'Parul Dablas: Delete is next to Text Icon', 'Parul Dablas: Eraser icon', 'shyler: yep thanks', and 'shyler: so if you're running get slides, you should log on and upload about an hour in advance!'. The chat window also has a 'Say something...' input field and a 'Lock Poll' button.

Access to Bb Collaborate Ultra sessions and links to recordings are provided via your unit sites.

If you are using Bb Collaborate Ultra on your device for the first time, we strongly advise you to set up your device correctly, and check your audio and video settings at least 24 hours before the first session.

For the best experience, we recommend that you use:


- ▶ Google Chrome as your browser
- ▶ a reliable internet connection

The screenshot shows the UniStart website, titled 'UniStart: Ultimate guide to studying online'. The website has a navigation bar with tabs: VIEW ALL, ASSESSMENT, EXAMS, PLACEMENTS AND WORK INTEGRATED LEARNING, POSTGRADUATE AND RESEARCH, STUDENT CHARTER, and STUDY SUPPORT. The main content area features several tiles: 'UniStart' (with a video thumbnail), 'UniStart online sessions' (with a list of topics: Introduction to studying at university, Ultimate guide to studying online, Discover your Library, Researching, Get writing, Introduction to Referencing, and a 'Register now!' button), 'Referencing guide' (with a 'Revised and updated' note and links to Referencing guide, Harvard Referencing, Referencing FAQs, and Academic Integrity), 'Students Helping Students' (with a 'Business & Law Mentor Program' and 'Faculty of Science, Engineering & Built Environment Peer Support Network'), 'Stuck on an assignment? Ask Study Support' (with a list of services: Email us, Book an appointment on campus or online, and Writing Mentor drop in), and 'Assignment Planner' (with a note about Deakin's interactive assignment planner). On the right side, there is a 'WATSON CAN HELP YOU' section with a quote from Thomas Berger and an 'Ask Now' button, and an 'Inbox' section with an 'Inbox' button. At the bottom, there is a 'News' section with several articles and a 'View All News' button. The footer includes a 'DeakinAtr' logo and a '1x' icon.



3. Value teacher/expert presence


Email Study Support



- › For short queries only.
- › We will answer you by the following weekday.

[Email us now >](#)

Drop in to see a student mentor



- › No need to make an appointment – just drop in! Student mentors are available at all campuses and online during each trimester.
- › [Writing Mentors](#)
- › [Maths Mentors](#)

Book an appointment

- › Appointments available with Language and Learning Advisers
- › **Until 8.30pm Mon-Fri**
- › At your campuses or via Skype for Business or phone.
- › Can't find an appointment? You can Skype or phone an Adviser at **any** campus!

[Book an appointment >](#)

- › If you have any difficulty making a booking, please call: 03 9246 8250

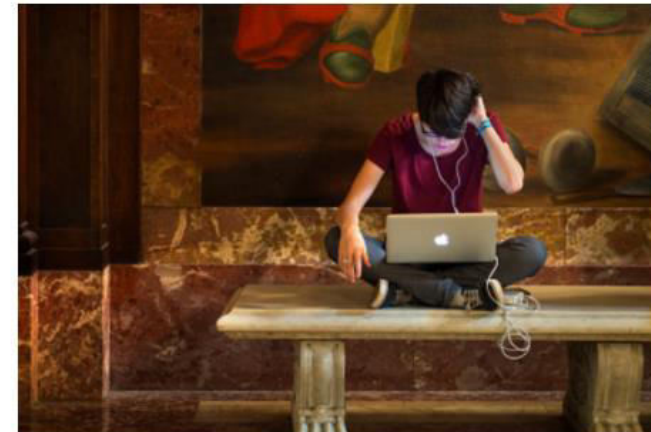
To do

Activity

Progress

1.13

YOU'VE COMPLETED 1 STEP IN WEEK 1



© Getty Images




Share your tips for communicating online

Although you may be used to chatting online, as a postgraduate Cloud Campus student, you'll need to think about adapting your communication skills and habits for an academic audience.

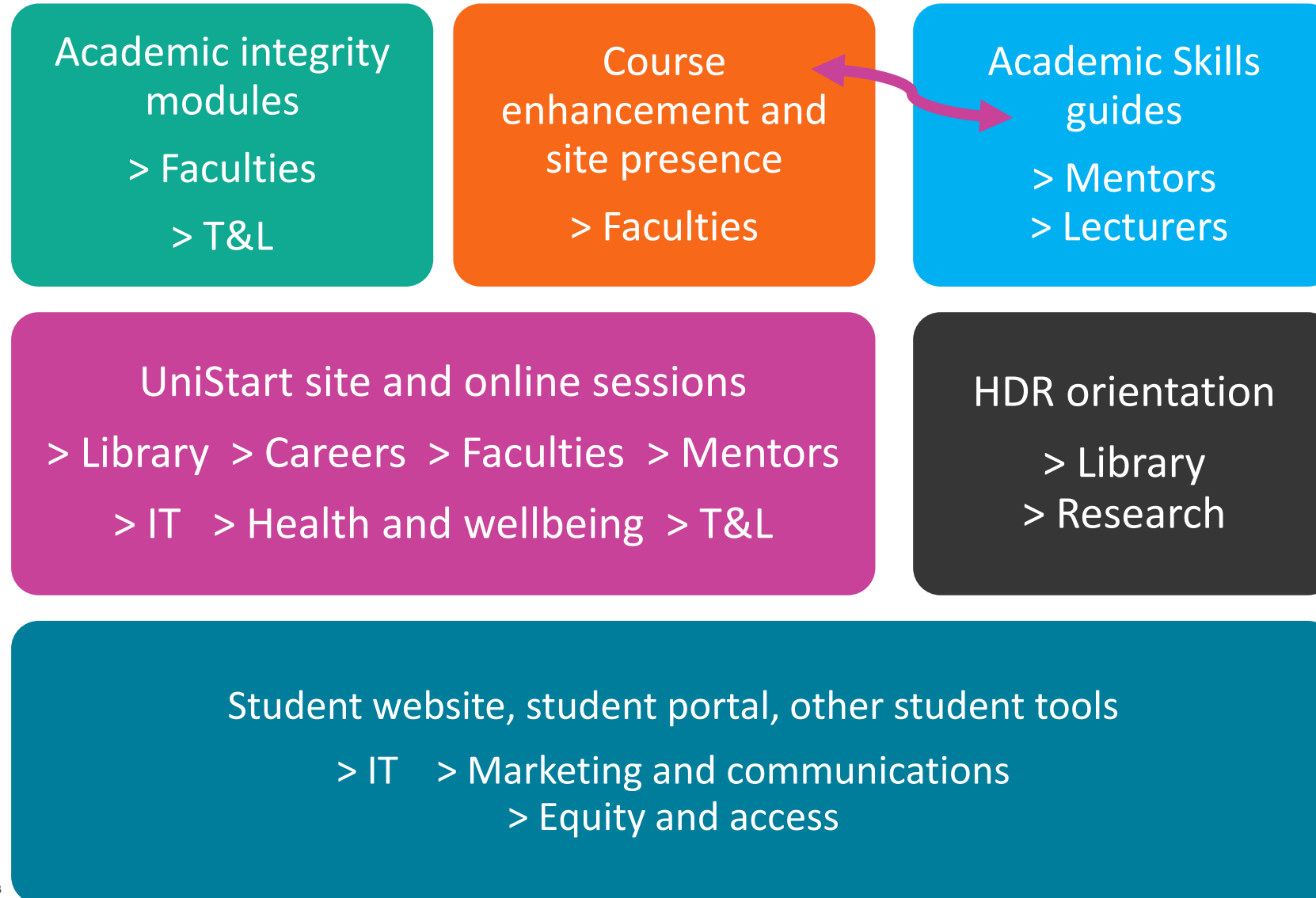
Before you join any discussion, consider the following Deakin online communication guidelines.

Join in and enjoy yourself

Your Cloud Campus is a shared learning environment. To make the most of your online postgraduate experience, make sure you participate and

Topic	Threads	Posts	Last Post
Welcome ▾ Use this space to test using the discussion tool - or just to say hello!	14	58 (7)	 Lyn Doolan <u>22 August at 2:45 PM</u>
Deakin's digital tools ▾ Post your questions about using DeakinSync, units sites, Turnitin or any other online tools.	10	35 (8)	 Lyn Doolan <u>18 September at 3:33 PM</u>
Study Success ▾ Do you have questions about time management, academic writing, referencing or exams? We're here to help.	9	32 (8)	 <u>6 hours ago</u>

4. Build collaboration across the Uni



Redefining our status



DEAKIN UNIVERSITY

Academic and Peer Support

Supporting students at every stage of their degree

WHO ARE WE? FACULTY WORK STUDENT RESOURCES STUDENT CONSULTATIONS STAFF FAQs CONTACT US

Search ...

RECENT POSTS

- Embedding academic integrity
- Supporting HDR students
- English language development
- Transition pedagogy
- Developing academic literacies

ARCHIVES

October 2017

TAGS

Academic integrity (1) Academic literacies (1) Academic skills (2) Academic writing (4) English language

DEVELOPING ACADEMIC LITERACIES

10/04/2017 DREW ROBERTS LEAVE A COMMENT EDIT

What are our hidden expectations of students – and how does this impact on their outcomes?

Academic literacies involve more than basic reading and writing skills. At university, we ask students to both develop and demonstrate a set of academic skills and literacies that are implicitly valued in academic culture. We ask students to critically research, analyse and synthesise ideas and information in order to provide a considered response to a question. We have expectations about the way in which a response should be structured, the kind of information that is valid, and how it should be acknowledged. But what are our hidden expectations of students? How can students become aware of and develop these skills and literacies over the duration of their course? And how does this impact on their graduate learning outcomes? We work collaboratively with all Faculties, the Library, Student Engagement and Experience, and Deakin Learning Futures to

Discussion

What are you doing at your Uni in this area?

Do you think digital literacy should be a part of our work?

Do you think we are well equipped to survive the online university?



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