



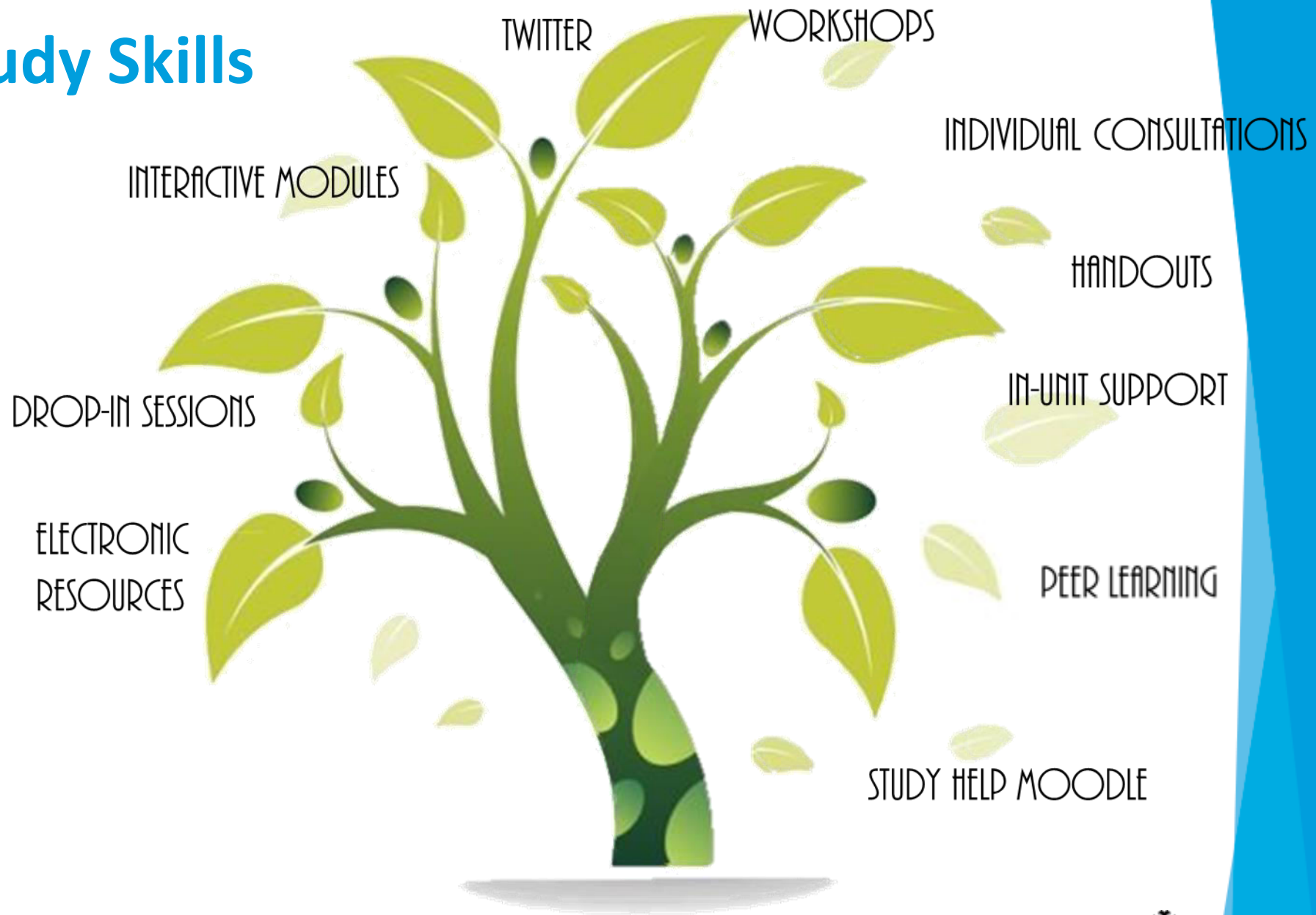
UNIVERSITY OF  
CANBERRA

# Not just ‘another workshop’

## Study Skills, University of Canberra

Catherine Laike, Ellen Lassman, Kim Cole and Gail Heinrich

# Study Skills



# Workshops: searching for that elusive hook....

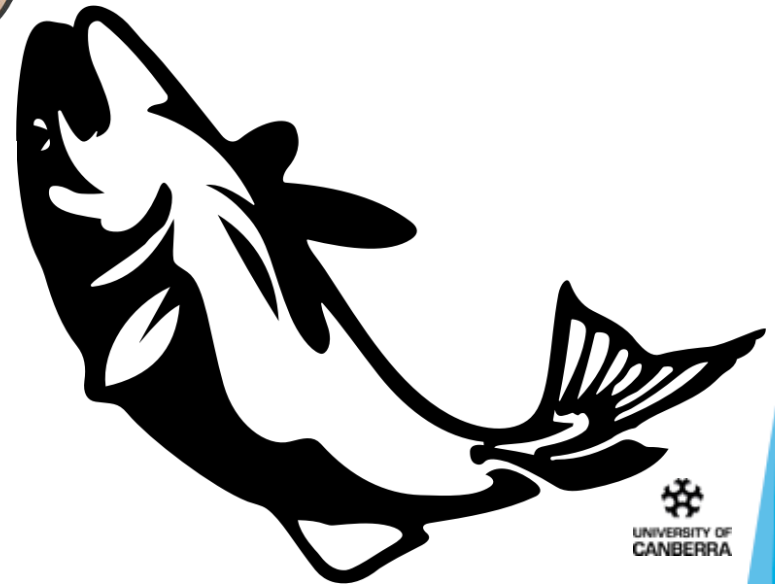
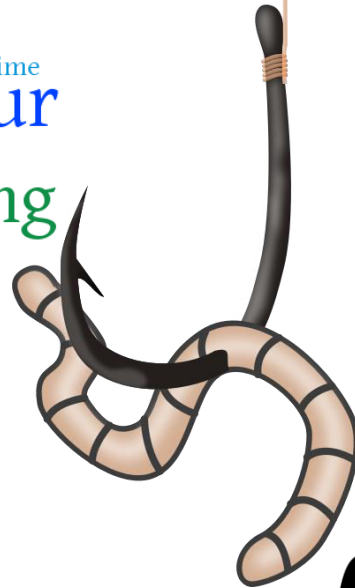
evening  
one-hour lunchtime  
half-hour  
two-hour  
morning

flyers  
Facebook  
events calendar  
Twitter  
posters

time management  
research  
EndNote  
exam preparation  
referencing  
assignment writing  
oral presentations

lecture  
workshop  
student-centred

Canberra Award points  
free food  
free  
success





## Our Workshop Program

Attendees were enthusiastic and engaged, we just didn't have many...

# Intensive English

- Need:** International students unprepared for study in Australia.
- Target Group:** International students
- Promotion:** Flyers, Posters, UC Events, Twitter, Moodle, Web
- Timing:** Intensive 4-day program  
10:30am-3:30pm  
Pre O-Week and Week 8
- Incentives:** Free  
Certificate of completion  
25 Points for Canberra Award

**Study Skills**

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## Intensive English Course

Designed to help students improve their skills in:

- academic reading
- academic writing
- paraphrasing
- listening & note-taking
- oral presentations.

**Dates:** Tuesday 26th — Friday 29th September  
(Semester 2, Week 8)

**Time:** 10:30am – 3:30pm

**Location:** Building 6 SRC, Room 6B37

Register by emailing [studyskills@canberra.edu.au](mailto:studyskills@canberra.edu.au)

For more information contact Study Skills

W [canberra.edu.au/studyskills](http://canberra.edu.au/studyskills)  
E [studyskills@canberra.edu.au](mailto:studyskills@canberra.edu.au) T 6201 2205

break  
through

# Attendance

2015
Attendances
28

Session 1 2016	
Attendances	Completion
35	23

Session 2 2016	
Attendances	Completion
39	26

Session 1 2017	
Attendances	Completion
26	22

Session 2 2017	
Attendances	Completion
18	14

Session 3 2017	
Attendances	Completion
37	20

Session 4 2017	
Attendances	Completion
21	15

# Feedback

## What new things did you learn?

*'Different kinds of note taking, grammar, academic reading'*

*'Difference between paraphrase and summary, types of paraphrasing, passive and active tones'*

## Is there anything you would like to have learned more about?

*'I need more practice on writing and reading. I suggest if we can write an essay every day and you guide us on it'*

*'More time to practise paraphrasing'*

# Feedback continued

## Do you have any other comments?

*'Maybe the course could be more specific & detailed in explaining, extending it to extra days'*

*'This course should be run 2 – 3 times a semester'*

*'All the staff are friendly and patient. This course helps a lot for university students, especially for the non-native speaker students'*

*'The take home course content is very helpful to reflect on so the more the merrier'*

*'Thank you, I really gained some helpful strategies that I can use for many aspects in studying'*



## Successes

- Reaching target group
- Pre O-Week and Week 8 are popular
- Topics well received
- Library location
- Raise awareness of Study Skills services
- Overwhelmingly positive feedback
- International Student Barometer

## Challenges

- Catering for everyone's needs
- Staffing the course

# Study Skills 4 Success

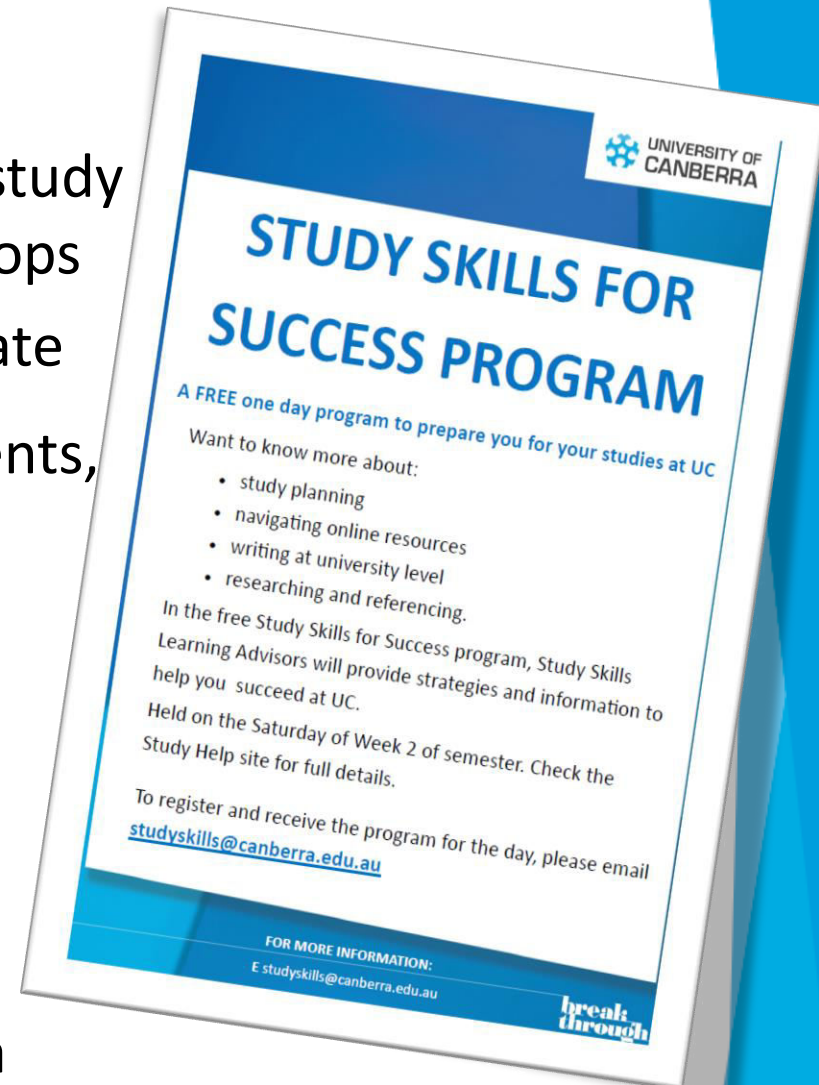
**Need:** Students unprepared for study  
Lack of interest in workshops

**Target Group:** First year undergraduate

**Promotion:** Flyers, Posters, UC Events,  
Twitter, Moodle, Web

**Timing:** Full day program  
10am-5pm, Saturday  
Week 2 of Semester

**Incentives:** Free  
Preparation for study  
25 points for Canberra  
Award



# Attendance and Feedback

Semester 1 2017	
Attendances	Completions
83	52

Domestic	International
81%	19%

Undergraduate	Postgraduate
75%	25%

Student Satisfaction Rating
100%

Semester 2 2017	
Attendances	Completions
47	33

Domestic	International
79%	21%

Undergraduate	Postgraduate
70%	30%

Student Satisfaction Rating
100%

## In what ways did you find the program useful?

*'Practical tips for assignment-related skills, staff being enthusiastic and friendly, contents delivered interestingly, practical tasks being useful'*

*'The program was very useful in its entirety – especially since I am returning to university studies after 20 years'*

## What new things did you learn?

*'Understanding assessment tasks; Study Help website; time management; where to search for references; where to go for help'*

*'Mostly about the marking criteria and how the unit conveners mark the assignments. I got a better understanding of what they will be looking for.'*

## Successes

- Reaching target group
- Saturday is popular
- Topics well received
- Workshop delivery in lecture theatres
- Feed students into Study Skills services

## Challenges

- Catering for everyone's needs
- Length of the day
- Providing the program online



## Our Intensive Workshop Program

We have many enthusiastic and satisfied attendees!

# Workshops vs Intensive Programs

Similarities	Workshops	Intensive Programs
Target Group	First year undergraduate	
Promotion	Flyers, Posters, UC Events, Twitter, Moodle, Web	
Incentives	Free Preparation for study Points for Canberra Award	
Activities	Workshop-based, student-centred	
Differences	Workshops	Intensive Programs
Timing	Short (60-90 mins) Across the semester	Long (1 to 4 days) Early in semester (Sat) Pre O-Week/break week
Skills	Isolated skills Limited writing & language focus	Integrated skills Writing & language focus

# Why is the intensive approach working?

- Based on academic staff feedback and needs of students identified in Student Readiness Surveys rather than perceived need or tradition.
- There is more time for teachers to:
  - Provide explanations and examples of study strategies
  - Provide feedback on student work
  - Develop rapport with students
- And for students to:
  - Practise strategies and ask questions
  - Get to know their peers and form new friendships
  - Acquire and consolidate the various skills and strategies needed to complete an assignment, rather than learning them in isolation



# Over to you....

- What successes and challenges have you faced in workshop programs? You might consider:
  - Target groups (and typical cohort)
  - Promotion
  - Timing (day/week, time of semester, lengths of courses)
  - Incentives/credit for attendance
  - Topics and activities
  - Attendance and feedback

# Group findings...

# Attendance and feedback collection

## Feedback!

Please use the scanner to record your feedback on the session:

Please scan the barcode on your student card



OR



Scan this barcode if you don't have your student card



No Student Card



Please scan one option in response to this statement:

**I found this session helpful.**

  
  
Strongly Agree

  
  
Agree

  
  
Disagree

  
  
Strongly Disagree

## Barcode Scanners