

COMP1715 Scholarly and Academic Practice

Week 1 Exercise

How to survive your first week in CIS: a guide for new students

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During my first week, I felt that I needed the right attitude into how I approach University. To prepare, I had to know how long it took me to get to University. This is crucial because if you are travelling to University, you want to be on time; every single time you attend each tutorial or lecture. Leave at 9:30am if you start at 11am just to be on time.

During the first week, keep updating your timetable. I felt that this is necessary, because changes occur during the first four weeks and you might even miss your lecture, if you do not know where you are going to go.

A problem was that I had three personal tutor meetings on the Friday. I solved this problem by emailing Dr Kevin MacManus and he told me which meeting I had to attend. I also noticed that day that I needed to keep intact with my emails. I straight away logged in my University email on my phone to keep intact with it. This is important for you to keep refreshing your email. This is because lecturers are going to email you the work to complete. If you do not regularly check your email, you go not know what to do.

I feel that every student needs to be prepared into every lecture you attend. Equipment and note taking is essential. Have a plain book for every module you have. For example, a whole A4 plain book just for Computer Programming. This is essential, as it would not confuse you any other notes you took for another lecture e.g. Logical Foundations. This enables you to remember what you have just learnt. Be prepared to attend the first lecture 15 minutes before it starts. This is because you can get a chance to sit at the front. Therefore, it would be better to listen to the lecturer and easy to ask questions.

Another issue I came across is doing my first lab session for Communication Systems. It is important you read upon before what you are going to do then turning up and asking all sorts of questions. The first lab was about Building a PC. We had to get a group of four. I knew what to do, but by checking my emails, it enabled me to know what to do. If you do not finish the laboratory session, go to an unsupervised session and complete it there with your group. It is important you do so as you could lose valuable marks.

Last point I am going to make is do not waste time whilst on your day off or having break. Complete the task on the day so the work does not pile up on the last day. This would be difficult to complete.

The way I approached it is by going on the Live Chat on the University website. I felt that they gave useful advice to any question. Another useful tip is to ask CIS Mentors. They are very helpful to any enquiry you may have during the first week. Another tip I would give you is talk to people. They are essentially in the same boat as you. If you do not understand something and they do, just ask.