



University of Otago Distance
Learning

Your Distance Campus, October 2017

Important dates

13 October Semester 2 lectures end
18 October Semester 2 exams begin
23 October Labour Day
11 November Semester 2 exams end

Your Distance Campus

Welcome to the October edition of *Your Distance Campus* newsletter.

Just a couple of weeks left of Semester 2 as you head into exams and/or final assignments.

It's important to say well, get plenty of sleep, and a bit of exercise to get you through the next month or so.

In this newsletter you will find information about Information Technology Services, the Library, Student Learning Development (previous Student Learning Centre), and upcoming workshops and events that are available to distance students.

Access to Resources

Don't forget to let us know as soon as possible if you're having trouble accessing the resources you need for your study in Semester 2. In the first instance, you should contact your programme administrator to see if there is a problem at that end. If you prefer, you can always contact The Distance Learning Office at distance.learning@otago.ac.nz and we will follow up for you.



Really useful links

for your study.

Blackboard

<https://blackboard.otago.ac.nz/>

Digital resources for writing

Visit Student Learning Development

here: <http://www.otago.ac.nz/hedc/students/digital/index.html>

Email (Student Webmail)

You should check your student email account regularly as this is the email address all official communications from the University are sent to.

<http://www.otago.ac.nz/smlanding/>

If you prefer, you should redirect your emails following these instructions: <https://its-faq.otago.ac.nz/index.php?action=artikel&cat=277&id=922&artlang=en>eVision

To check your exam results, update your address, and keep track of your programme, visit eVision: https://evision.otago.ac.nz/sitsvision/wrd/siw_lgn

ITS is the first place to go to when you're having technical problems. They also offer a range of services to students that you should make the most of!

<http://www.otago.ac.nz/its/services/otago033765.html>

Access the computing programmes your course uses from the Student Desktop - free to you from anywhere in the world: <https://student.desktop.otago.ac.nz/vpn/index.html>

Student Learning Development (previously known as the Student Learning Centre) can provide you with a range of support and help during your study at Otago.

HEDC Student Learning Development provides free and confidential academic development to students studying at the University of Otago. Whether you are working hard to get a pass mark, seeking to gain a top result, all students can benefit from their services.

Bookmark the Student Learning Development website now!
<http://www.otago.ac.nz/hedc/students/index.html>

Need a transcript of your academic study at Otago? Information about transcripts and costs are available here: <https://secure-www.otago.ac.nz/study/transcripts/>



Most (if not all) of these services are free, and many of are available via Zoom. It's important that if you register for an event and can no longer attend, you should contact the event organiser so your space can be taken by someone else.

Goskills.com is an online training resource for PC and Mac users covering a wide range of computer applications and some professional skills. Further topics are being added regularly.

<https://corpapp.otago.ac.nz/training/its/course/2781/subject/online-self-study/>

Brian Johnson is the University of Otago Personal Performance Coach and can help you to:

- Identify and define specific goals
- Discover your strengths
- Explore all your personal and study options
- Develop action plans to achieve your goals

Brian's service is free and confidential - and he will use **Zoom** for his appointments for students from the Distance Campus!

Contact Brian or book an appointment now: <http://www.otago.ac.nz/graduate-research/people/otago513001.html>

What examiners do: What thesis students should know

What do thesis examiners do as they read and judge a thesis? In this workshop we review the 11 main practices of thesis examiners, and, based on these, identify tips, strategies and advice for thesis students. What should thesis students do to write for their examiners? If you know your audience you can write a better thesis. A recording of this workshop is available at:

<http://www.otago.ac.nz/hedc/staff/supervise/index.html>

Reading to read before watching the video (you may need to login in to view them):

What examiners do: What thesis students should

know: www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/02602938.2013.859230

Advice for writing a thesis (based on what examiners do):

www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/23265507.2017.1300862

Graduate Research School workshops

The Graduate Research School runs a number of postgraduate workshops via Zoom so distance students can take part.

- For more information about the workshops and to **register**, see:
<http://www.otago.ac.nz/graduate-research/community/events/index.html>



Support for Students

Help is here when you need it!

Your first point of contact for academic matters should be your course coordinator or course administrator. See your course outline for contact information. Details of other contact information is available in the [2017 Distance Learning Information and Support Booklet](#).

Other contacts include:

Student IT

Help from [Student IT](#) is available at the following times:

- Hours during semester:
Mon - Fri: 8.30am - 9pm
Sat - Sun: 9am - 9pm
Hours outside semester are reduced to office hours.
- In person: Student IT desk in Central Library
- Chat: [Message us on Facebook](#)
- Email: studentit@otago.ac.nz
- Website: <https://blogs.otago.ac.nz/studentit/>
- ITS Website: otago.ac.nz/its

Remember to plan ahead and checking notices about upcoming down times and possible issues with IT systems you use. This may have an impact on your ability to upload assignments in time!

There is a StudentIT App for Android and iOS which will help you keep up to date with notices about the vital IT systems at the University. Download information is at the bottom of the [Student IT](#) page. (Please note: this does not include notices about Moodle)

Student Learning Development

HEDC Student Learning Development (previously Student Learning Centre) provides free and confidential academic development to students studying at the University of Otago.

Personal consultations are available - see the website for more information.

Bookmark the Student Learning Development website now!
<http://www.otago.ac.nz/hedc/students/index.html>

The Distance Learning Office

The Distance Learning Office Administrator is available Monday to Thursday morning and Tuesday afternoon. Our aim is to respond to your emails and telephone voice messages within 24 hours. We may not have the answers but we will direct your inquiry to someone who does!

Email: Phone: 64 (0)3 479 4138

The University Information Centre

All queries about your enrolment, exams, graduation, academic transcripts, key dates, course approval, change of course, study timetable and any administrative matters about your study at Otago should be directed to the University Information Centre.

University Information Centre
PO Box 56,
Dunedin 9054,
New Zealand
Chat via Phone: 0800 80 80 98 (Freephone NZ)
Phone: 64 3 479 7000 (direct dial)
Email: university@otago.ac.nz

2017 Distance Learning Information & Support Booklet

You will have been sent a hard copy, a PDF, or a link to the Information and Support Booklet by your course administrator. This support booklet provides you with useful information about dates, key contacts, communicating with the University, and much more.

- http://www.otago.ac.nz/courses/distance_study/otago629346.pdf
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