Academic skills for AMS students
Population Health

Language and Learning Skills Unit
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http://www.services.unimelb.edu.au/llsu
Expectations of the year??

- What do you anticipate will be different this year?
- What do you think will be the best thing about this year?
- What do you think will be your biggest academic challenge?
Common experiences & concerns

‘For the first time ever, I’m going to be able to follow my own interests.’

‘There is so much more general reading to do’

‘I am planning to be much more efficient this year. I’m going to be better at research … at organising my notes, I mean, and I’m going to get everything in on time.’

‘I know that producing the thesis is a challenge, but I don’t think I’ll have any real difficulty writing it once I’ve done the research.’
My experience: Nancy Ilaya
Honours student (Dept. Pathology)

- Rare soap opera experience.
  - 1st project ‘fell through.’
  - Mid-Year re-start
  - Serious illness twice
    - Before I re-started
    - Just before a conference and thesis submission

“Expect the unexpected”
“Choose your project wisely and look after yourself”
Session outline

• Expectations and general skills
• Working with your supervisor
• Reading in non-scientific disciplines
• Note taking
• Developing a thesis
• Questions
Expectations & requirements

• Complete coursework units:
  • Core disciplinary subjects
  • Specific topics
  • Methodology units

• Complete a research project (word limit)

• Maintain a consistently high standard of work in the field over the whole year

• Develop a level of ‘disciplinary expertise’

• All within a short academic year
Academic skills required

Skills for success in tertiary education, and desired ‘graduate attributes’, include:

• Written and oral communication
• Reading and evaluation skills
• Research and independent inquiry skills
• Critical thinking and analysis
• Time and project management
Getting started

• Develop generic academic & disciplinary specific skills
• Develop some effective planning and T.M. tools:
  • Time line, weekly planner, daily lists…
• Organise and balance social / uni life now
• Organise study environment and tools:
  • Space, ‘tech gear’, databases…
• Develop networks of support (academic & social)
• Look for models:
  • Theses; articles; book chapters; similar research projects