

Undergraduate Academic Skills Workshops Programme 2024

HEDC – Student Learning Development & the Library

Workshops are great for finding out what is expected of you at all levels of university study. Our workshops are interactive, informal sessions which will help you discover new techniques and skills to support your study.

For any questions about our workshops, please contact SLD Reception at hedc.studentlearning@otago.ac.nz or 03 479 8801.

HEDC – Student Learning Development Strategies for Successful Learning

Registrations for these workshops are now open at:
otago.ac.nz/hedc/students/workshop

UniStart

Been away from formal education for some time? These informal sessions give you a friendly introduction to some aspects of study such as note-taking, effective reading strategies, and managing your first assignment. (*Session is limited to 10 persons.*)

Time Management

In this workshop, we will cover the general principles of good time management and how to be more efficient with the time you have available using evidence-based techniques that work.

Effective Note-Taking Strategies

This workshop will help you become a more effective learner by providing you with strategies to take better notes. You will learn about the three stages of note taking, and why taking notes helps you retain information more effectively. You will also learn how to turn your notes into a revision resource.

Learn More with a Growth Mindset

If I don't understand something right away, does it mean that I'm not smart? Are challenge and effort good or bad? Do I believe in the power of "not yet"?

During our workshop, we will explore some of these questions through the lens of the fascinating findings from the research on "mindsets". We will explore what it means to have a "Growth Mindset" versus a "Fixed Mindset," and we will consider how the findings relate to learning and achievement. Most importantly, we will investigate how to apply some of the insights from the research and our thinking to our own approaches to learning.

Writing Better Sentences and Paragraphs

This workshop focuses on some aspects of sentence and paragraph structure, key grammar points, common writing errors, and proofreading techniques. We also work on practical exercises which allow you to reflect on ways to improve your writing.

Reading for Understanding

This workshop offers strategies to read university material effectively, efficiently, and for understanding. Some pointers are also given on how to critique reading material.

Writing at University

This workshop focuses on structural and stylistic elements which apply to a range of writing tasks. The hallmarks of a good introduction and conclusion will also be highlighted, and examples will be provided.

Avoiding plagiarism for Undergraduates

In this workshop, you will learn the difference between paraphrasing and summarising, and how these skills can help you avoid plagiarism and become a more effective writer. You will have the opportunity to practice paraphrasing and summarising during the workshop. This introductory workshop is best suited to undergraduate students who want to develop their skills of working with research literature and original sources of information.

Presentation Skills

This workshop is designed for students who are new to giving presentations and those who want to develop their confidence. We will discuss the key elements of a good presenter and learn to create effective presentation materials, such as PowerPoint slides. On completion of this workshop, students will be able to:

1. Plan a presentation
2. Use effective verbal and non-verbal techniques when making a presentation
3. Reduce their stress when presenting
4. Apply basic design principles to creating effective presentation slides

Essay Writing for Exams

This workshop deals with how to approach an essay under exam conditions and provides some tips and techniques on how to structure an essay. We also discuss markers' general expectations.

Jumpstart your stats skills 0

This series of workshops aims to provide a conceptual introduction to statistics to help students engage with the literature more deeply and thoroughly and facilitate learning with understanding. Please note that the facilitator's background is in psychology; therefore, most examples will be from psychology or similar disciplines.

The first workshop of the series will cover the following topics: What is a variable; Level of measurement; measurement error, reliability, and validity; Null vs alternative hypothesis; Normal distribution; Central tendency; Standard deviation.

Jumpstart your stats skills 1

This series of workshops aims to provide a conceptual introduction to statistics to help students engage with the literature more deeply and thoroughly and facilitate learning with understanding. Please note that the facilitator's background is in psychology; therefore, most examples will be from psychology or similar disciplines. Contents: This workshop of the series will cover the following topics: - standard error, and confidence intervals; - p-value - two-tailed vs one-tailed test. - type 1 and type 2 errors.

Jumpstart your stats skills 2

This series of workshops aims to provide a conceptual introduction to statistics to help students engage with the literature more deeply and thoroughly and facilitate learning with understanding. Please note that the facilitator's background is in psychology; therefore, most examples will be from psychology or similar disciplines. Also, please note that this is a conceptual introduction, not a workshop on using a particular software to run correlation and regression.

Jumpstart your stats skills 3

This series of workshops aims to provide a conceptual introduction to statistics to help students engage with the literature more deeply and thoroughly and facilitate learning with understanding.

Please note that the facilitator's background is in psychology; therefore, most examples will be from psychology or similar disciplines. Also, please note that this is a conceptual introduction, not a workshop on using a particular software to run t-test.

Contents: This workshop covers the following topics: Introduction to experimental research method (between group vs within group design); Independent vs dependent variable; Systematic and unsystematic variance; t-statistic; type 1 and type 2 errors; F-ratio in analysis of variance; Determining significance of F test; Contrasts and post-hoc tests; Analysis of co-variance.

It is expected that you will have attended Jumpstart your stats skills 1, or be familiar with variance, SD, normal distribution.

The HEDC seminar room is located at 65/75 Union Place West, Dunedin 9016

Phone: +64 3 479 8492 Email: hedc@otago.ac.nz



