

Get started with your studies





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**You have registered and you have
received your study material**

What now?

Get started with your studies

- Students are faced with challenges.
- Studying can be a rough journey.
- Succeeding at first year increases your chances of completing your qualification.
- You need a positive attitude and motivation.

Get started with your studies

What to expect from Unisa

- Unisa is ODL (Open Distance Learning)
- **Your study package**
 - Tutorial letters
 - My Studies @ Unisa brochure
- **Support services at Unisa**
 - myUnisa and myLife e-mail
 - e-tutors and tutorials
 - Fellow students, lecturers, family and friends
 - Counselling

Get started with your studies

My Studies @ Unisa

- how to start with your studies
- how to connect with others
- how to manage your studies

How have you been planning for your studies?



Plan your studies

- Organise your space and your time.
- Number of modules (Re-admission and progression rules).
- Get an overview of your study material.
- Make use of the year planner.
- Buy your prescribed books.
- Be connected with the University, lecturers and other students.
- Management of stress or challenges.

Step 1: Get organised

- Printed material: organise different tutorial letters and study guides into different files (use inventory letter to check).
- Electronic material: create separate folders for each of your modules and place the various files in the appropriate folder.

Does this sound familiar?

- I never have enough time to ... (study, rest, spend with my family)
- I don't know where my time goes!
- Nobody could do all I have to do within the limited time I have

Most of the time...

- You do not realise that you have the time you need for your studies in your schedule.
- You may not have reflected on how you are using your time.

Step 2: Plan your studies

- What you need to do and when you will do it.
- SMART plans: specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and in time goals
- “I will read and make notes of chapter 1 for Economics from 18:00-20:00 tonight”.
- Goals help you to commit to specific tasks and they hold you accountable for what you need to do.

Step 2: Plan your studies

- Your tutorial letters and study guides will indicate to you what you need to study – you will need to plan when you will study.

Two types of planning

- Long-term planning
- Short-term planning

Step 3: Start studying

This could be daunting – you may not have studied for some time or you are worried about your English language skills

JUST GET STARTED!

Step 3: Start studying

Start with a quick overview of your study guide – especially of learning objectives at the beginning of a unit.

Use a textbook where indicated.

Step 3: Start studying

Actively engage with your studies:

- Ask questions (use the learning objectives in your study guides to guide you).
- Make links between your studies, what you know and everyday life.
- Make notes.

A photograph of a person sitting at a desk, with their head buried in their hands, suggesting stress or frustration. The desk contains a round analog clock, a closed silver laptop, and a calendar for August 2015. The person is wearing a dark blue t-shirt.

How will you cope with stress and challenges related to your studies?

What kind of support do you have in place?

Succeeding with your studies

- Students are faced with challenges.
- Studying can be a rough journey.
- Succeeding at first year increases your chances of completing your qualification.
- You need a positive attitude and motivation.

To recap

- Get organised
- Plan your studies
- Start studying
- Get support

Remember



Learning can be rewarding but a painful and disappointing experience at the same time. Things will not always go the way you want them to. However, studying through distance learning can be an exciting challenge in that you need discipline and you are independent.

Contact us

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