



University of
South Australia

Introductory Academic Program

Studying at UniSA

Learning Advisers
UniSA



A good student

1. Select **three criteria** you think are the most important characteristics of a good student (be prepared to explain why)
2. Find someone who has chosen **at least two of the same criteria** as you. **Discuss** your choices and **come to a compromise by agreeing on a third criteria**
3. **Compare** your choices with the other half of the class. **Explain** your choices and come to an agreement as a whole group.





Academic culture

What is 'culture'?

Culture is often connected to a country and its people: cuisine, clothing, language, behaviour, attitudes and values.

'**Academic culture**' refers to "...attitudes, values and ways of behaving that are shared by people who work or study in universities..." (Brick 2011, p. 2).

Discuss

In groups, describe the academic culture(s) you have experienced in your own and other countries.



'Smart Start' guide

Each pair reads one section:

Pair 1

- 'Cracking the codes' and 'Navigating UniSA' pp. 6 – 7.

Pair 2

- 'Assessment' pp. 10 – 11.

Pair 3:

- 'Time management' pp. 12 – 13.

Now form a group of 3 (including 1 person from each pair):

Explain the main points covered in your sections to the group.



Academic culture at UniSA

- What does the 'Smart Start' guide suggest to you about the academic culture in the Australian context?
- What are the similarities and differences compared to your own experiences of academic culture?





Independent learning

Discuss

What is **independent learning**?

According to Brick (2011), an independent learner recognises his/her individual interests, learning needs, and learning style(s). Such a learner is able to choose how they study and manages their own learning effectively.

- Do you think you are an independent learner?
- What skills do you have that support independent learning?
- What skills do you think you need to develop more fully?
- How might you develop these skills?





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Suggested readings

Brick, J 2011, *Academic culture: a student's guide to studying at university*, 2nd edn, Macmillan, Australia.

Chapter 1: Academic culture, pp. 1 - 10.

Chapter 4: Independent learning, pp. 37 – 43.

