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.
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.
Each pair reads **one** section:

**Pair 1**
- ‘Cracking the codes’ and ‘Navigating UniSA’ pp. 6 – 7.

**Pair 2**
- ‘Assessment’ pp. 10 – 11.

**Pair 3:**

Now form a group of 3 (including 1 person from each pair):
Explain the main points covered in your sections to the group.
• 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?
Suggested readings


Chapter 1: Academic culture, pp. 1 - 10.
Chapter 4: Independent learning, pp. 37 – 43.