



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MELBOURNE

TRANSITION & ORIENTATION

STEPPING INTO UNI

STEPS TO A SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION

- 1 Courses** – Do your research. The more you know, the more realistic your expectations will be. Gather information from handbooks, websites and your Careers Adviser. If you don't know where to start, see the 'What questions should I ask?' flyer.
- 2 People** – The best way to find out about courses is to speak to current and past students. Talk to family and friends who have been to uni. Attend Open Days and talk to the student guides, who are genuinely interested in chatting to you about uni life.
- 3 Places** – As well as going to Open Days, try to spend time on campus on a normal day. You can attend VCE lectures, eat in one of the many cafés and wander around to see if the campus atmosphere suits you. Find out about clubs, sports and other activities at the Student Union or Sports Centre. Can you imagine yourself spending a few years here?
- 4 Housing** – Where are you going to live? Start planning early. Staying at home saves money and gives you a chance to ease into your new uni environment without the stress of bills, rent, housemates, etc. If you do wish or need to move out of home, Student Housing has advice about different options such as college, hostels, share housing or private rental.
- 5 Money** – Early planning is the key. How much is uni going to cost you? What about weekly bills for food, rent and a social life? Will you need a part-time job? Do you need to work and save money over summer? Are you eligible for Youth Allowance? The Financial Aid service can help – see their website or check out their range of publications.
- 6 Expect changes** – Uni is different from school. It's a good idea to find out as much about your chosen course(s) as you can, but also to be prepared for change. You know best how you cope with change and how to prepare yourself. There are many support services to help you and you can be proactive about asking for assistance – uni staff are paid to help you!
- 7 It's your choice** – Get advice from teachers, parents, friends and others, but remember, the choice of which course and which uni is up to you. If you make a decision that you are happy with, and you get into the course that suits you and your skills best, you will enjoy uni more.





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WHAT WILL MY DAY BE LIKE?

- 1 Classes** – How many hours a week of classes will your course have? First year classes ('contact hours') average 18 hours a week, and require approximately another 20+ hours of out-of-class study time. However, a lot depends on your course: you may have as few as 12 hours for an arts course, or as many as 30 hours in a science or engineering course. Your classes include lectures, tutorials (tutes), and perhaps laboratory (lab) or practical (prac) classes. On top of classes, you will have outside independent study or course work to do – you need to plan for your uni week as being a full-time load of about 40 hours, including class time and independent work.
- 2 People** – Many of your classes will be bigger than the ones you have had at school while some will be of similar size. You will probably be studying with a much wider range of people than ever before: students from different schools; students from the workplace who left school years ago; students from outside Victoria, from different countries, from outside Melbourne, of different backgrounds to yours, with different accents, abilities and interests. But you will all be students following a course in an area where you share interest, teaching staff, timetables, assessments and the campus experience.
- 3 Places** – You won't have a homeroom any more and you may not even have a locker. You will spend your days travelling across a bigger campus, which is like a small city in itself, with its own cafés, bars, sports facilities, post office, health service, theatres, computer labs, libraries and more. You'll soon find your own way around your usual places to have classes, study, eat, and relax. You'll probably even have your own shortcuts across campus.
- 4 Time management** – You may notice that there's no bell to remind you (or the lecturer) that it's time to finish. It's up to you to find out your timetable and get yourself to your next class on time. You will probably also have part-time work and social commitments to keep track of as well as study time, so developing your self-management skills is essential.
- 5 Challenges** – Students have used these words to describe their days at uni: awesome, challenging, great, amazing, interesting, responsible, fun, hard working, free, tiring, enjoyable, lonely, scary, friendly ... What will uni be like for you?

