



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
MELBOURNE

# TRANSITION & ORIENTATION

## TIPS FOR PARENTS

### TERTIARY SUCCESS INDICATORS

Research shows that students have a more successful transition to university when they are well prepared to negotiate the many changes they will face. Students will be better able to succeed in their studies when:

- Their course/subjects are well matched to their interests and aptitude
- The student's course meets their expectations, and when students have realistic expectations about the everyday tasks required by their course
- The student has developed a high level of self-management skills
- The student is resilient and communicative about their needs
- The student is confident and proactive when interacting with teaching, administrative and services staff
- The student feels that the campus is 'their' place and they engage socially with their peers
- The student spends time on campus in both class and out-of-class activities
- They take advantage of transition, orientation and other programs offered to assist their adjustment to university life
- They are prepared to challenge their own assumed knowledge of what university life may be about, and to embrace the changes





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### TRANSITION ISSUES

What are the main transition issues that students will face when they move from secondary school to tertiary studies? There are four main areas of change:

**Academic:** Students will notice changes in teaching and learning styles, in the pace of instruction, in expectations and assumptions and in the level of self-directed work they need to complete.

**Geographic:** All students will face a period of orientation to a new geographic environment. They may also need to change their travel and/or accommodation arrangements.

**Administrative:** Students will take responsibility for their own administrative affairs, such as enrolment, finances, timetables, and on-line curriculum packages. The University will communicate only with the student about all administrative matters.

**Personal:** Students will face changes, such as the need to make new friends and gain greater independence, and the loss of school friends, comfortable environment, people who know them etc.

### HOW CAN PARENTS HELP?

- Make yourself familiar with their new environment
- Encourage your child to investigate all courses of interest
- Remember that the student's motivation to do the course is essential
- Begin planning now - colleges, budgets, course information, etc.
- Liaise with your school's careers counsellor
- Use the Transition and Orientation website and look for useful publications
- Support and foster the student's independence
- Keep the communication lines open and expect changes in the relationship

