

Studying in the UK: What To Expect from Your Course



Workshop Contents



- Introduction to the learning environment
- Assessment, grading and critical thinking
- Tutor and student expectations
- Intro to 301
- Questions & answers

How will I learn?



Types of Learning

Course
content

Structured
Learning

Lectures or large-
group teaching

Semi-
Structured
Learning

Online resources,
videos, etc.

Independent
Learning

Core reading and
own research

Types of Learning

Course
content

+ Interactions with
tutors & students

Structured
Learning

Lectures or large-
group teaching

Seminar group
meetings

Semi-
Structured
Learning

Online resources,
videos, etc.

Online discussion
forums, blogs, etc.

Independent
Learning

Core reading and
own research

Group work, study
group and peer
discussion

Types of Learning

| | Course content | Interactions with tutors & students ⁺ | Assessment & coursework |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| Structured Learning | Lectures or large- group teaching | Seminar group meetings | Exams and exam- based essays |
| Semi- Structured Learning | Online resources, videos, etc. | Online discussion forums, blogs, etc. | Essays and coursework |
| Independent Learning | Core reading and own research | Group work, study group and peer discussion | Formative assignments and essays |

Types of Learning

You should treat your course like a working week!

Structured
Learning

10-20 hours per week

Semi-
Structured
Learning

5-10 hours per week

Independent
Learning

10-20 hours per week

Independent Learning

Top tips:

- Find an appropriate study space that works for you
- Use a diary or calendar to plan your study time
- Adopt an organised approach to keeping notes
- Start keeping track of what you are reading (e.g. use referencing software like Zotero)
- Work together with friends if you find company and peer support useful



How will I be assessed?



Types of Assessment

Written Assignments

Essays
Reports
Blogs
Dissertation
Project

Other Assessments

Presentations
Quizzes
Exams
Portfolios

Formative: doesn't count towards your overall degree classification, but provides a chance to practice and learn from feedback.

Summative: counts towards your degree classification (but is still a chance to learn from feedback!)

Grading systems

Undergraduate (3 years full time)

| Grades (Percentage) | Meaning |
|------------------------|--|
| 70 - 100 | First class degree |
| 60 - 69 | 2:1 |
| 50 - 59 | 2:2 |
| 40 - 49 | Third class degree |
| 1 - 39 | Fail - no credits awarded, a candidate with any module at this level may not be recommended for the award of a degree. |
| 0 | Work not submitted, or insufficient work to make any assessment. |

Check with your department for specific guidelines!

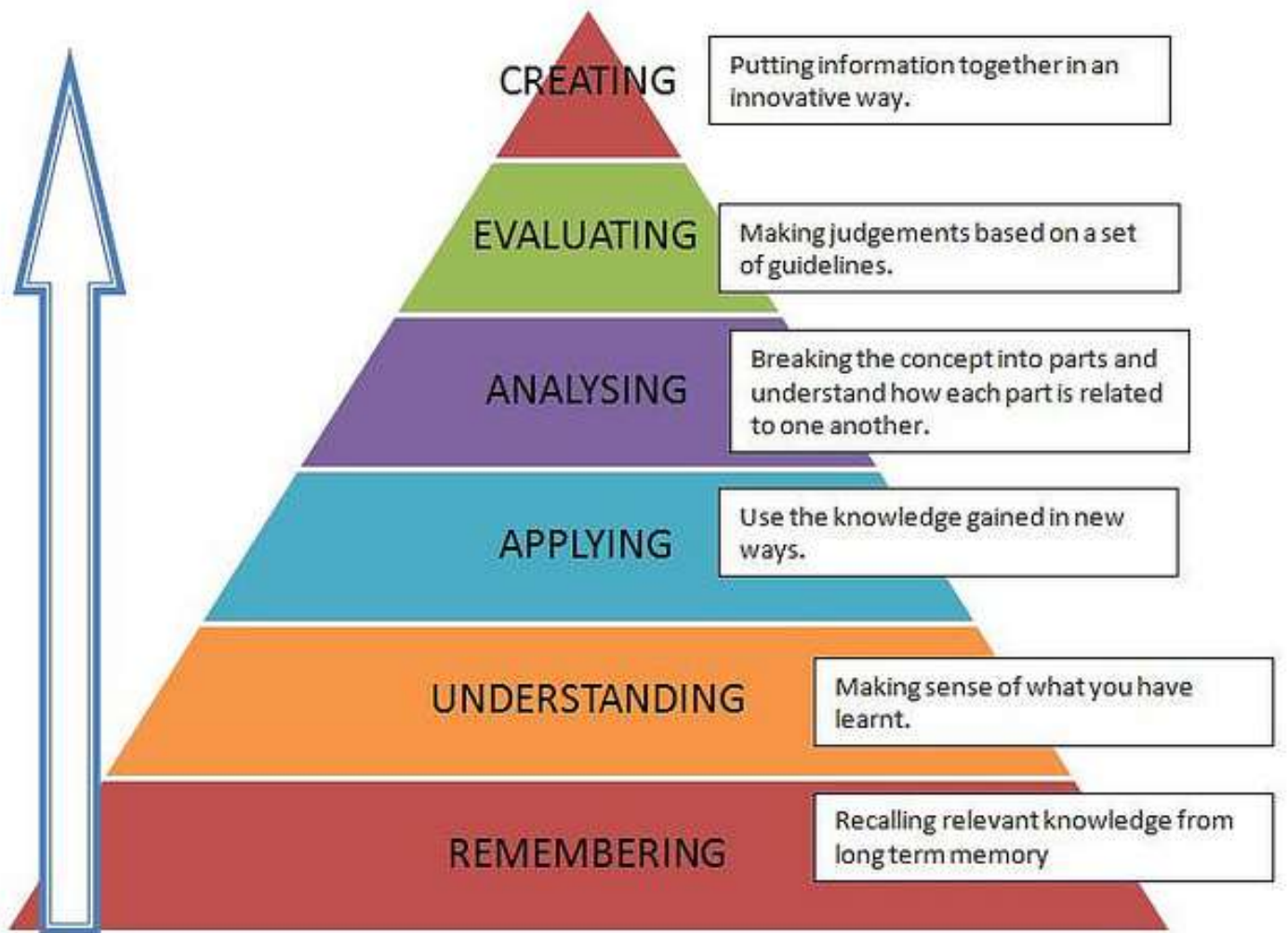
Grading systems

Postgraduate Taught Masters (1 year full time)

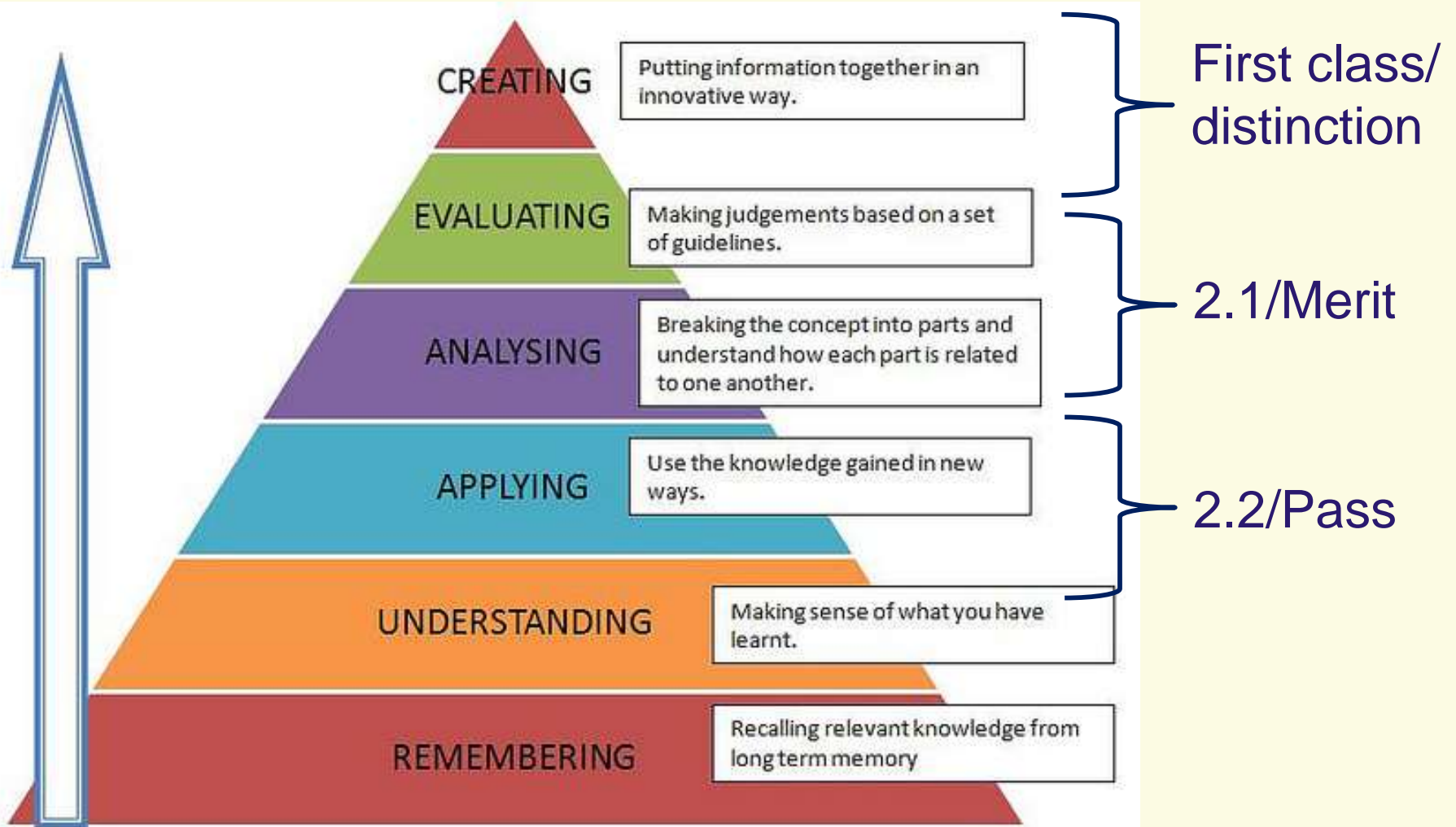
| Grades (Percentage) | Meaning |
|------------------------|--|
| 70 - 100 | Distinction |
| 60 - 69 | Merit |
| 50 - 59 | Pass |
| 40 - 49 | Fail - no credits awarded. |
| 1 - 39 | Fail - no credits awarded, a candidate with any module at this level may not be recommended for the award of a masters degree. |
| 0 | Work not submitted, or insufficient work to make any assessment. |

Check with your department for specific guidelines!

Bloom's Taxonomy of Learning



Bloom's Taxonomy of Learning



Critical Analysis

Both descriptive and critical writing are important, but you need to move beyond description to gain higher grades

Descriptive writing

- States or describes what happened
- States or describes what something is like
- Explains a theory
- Notes the method used
- Provides information

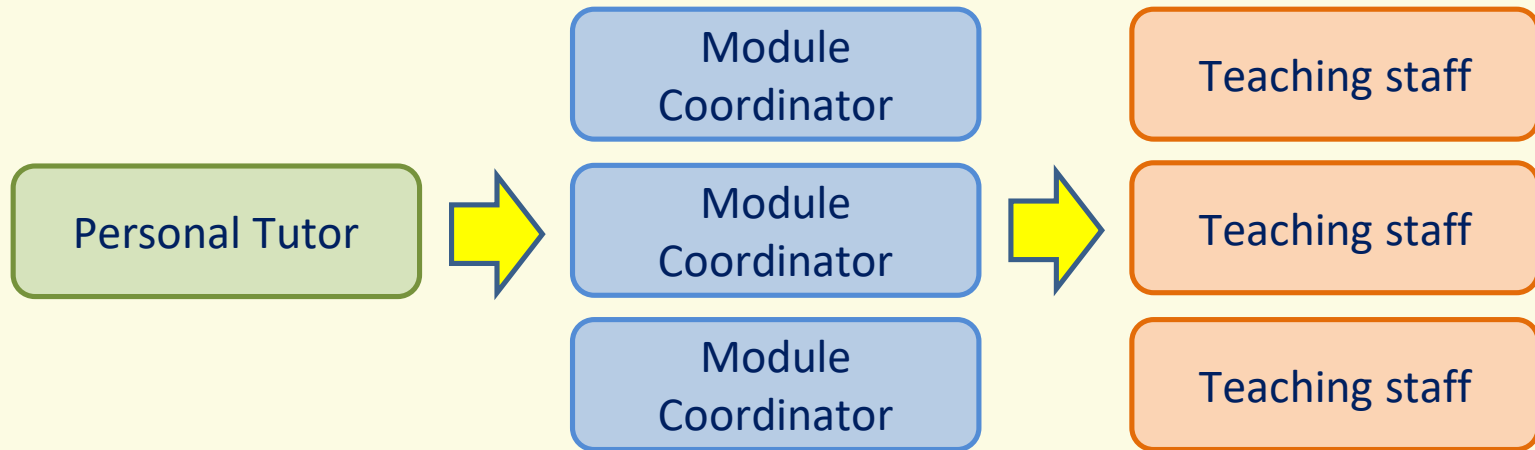
Critical writing

- Identifies significance
- Evaluates strengths and weaknesses
- Shows why something is relevant or important
- Evaluates the method
- Draws conclusions

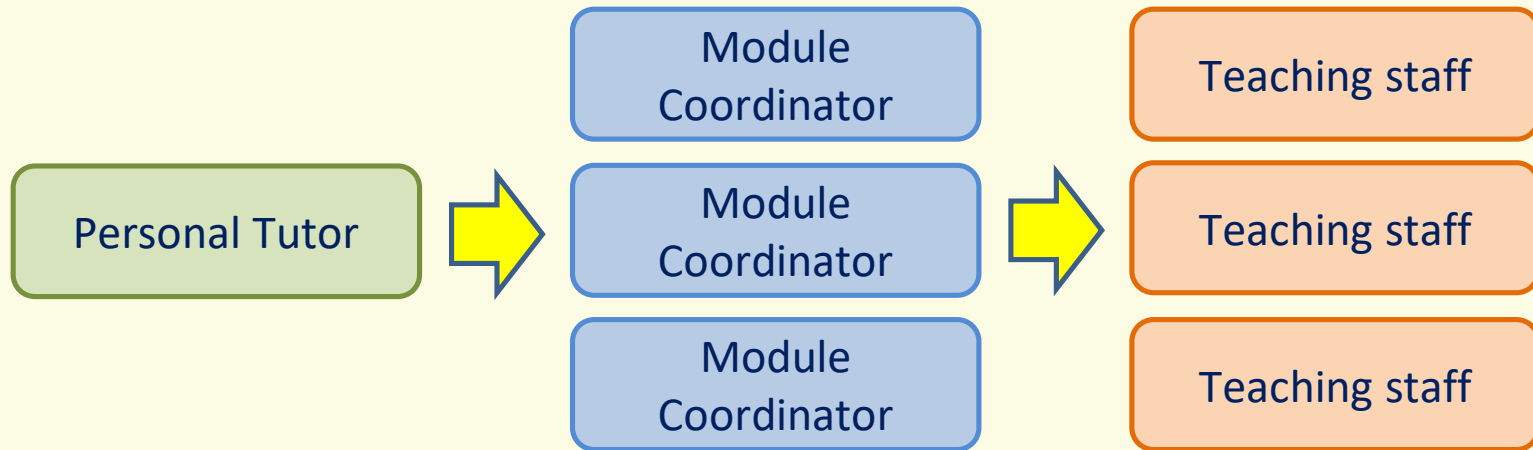
What will my tutors be like?



Getting to Know Your Tutors



Getting to Know Your Tutors

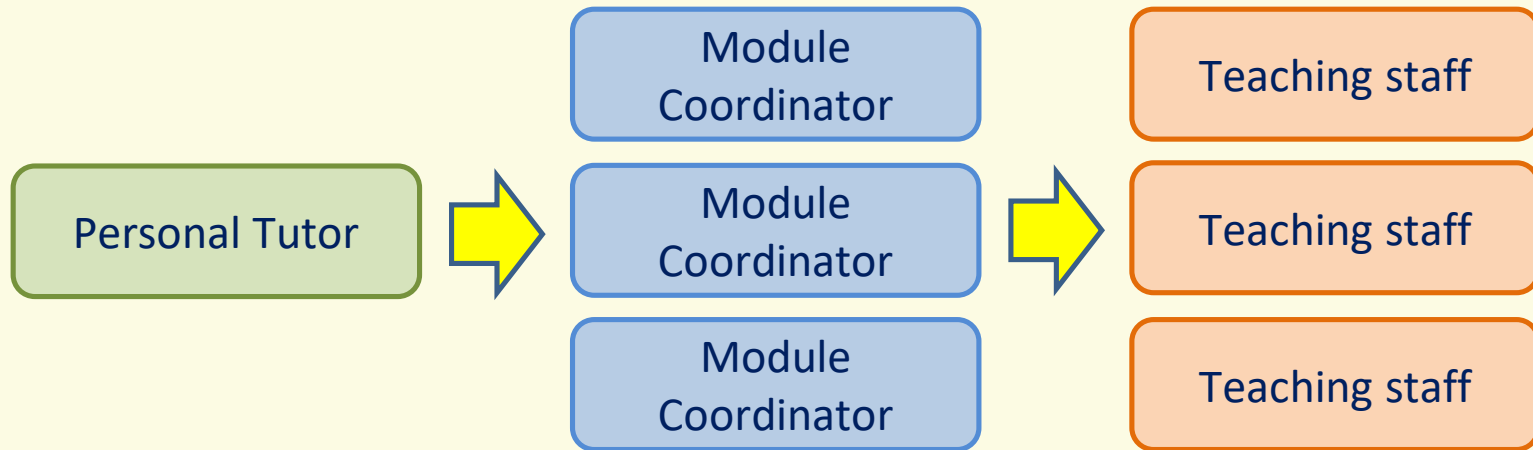


Quiz: Who might you approach for the following?

- 1. Personal tutor**
- 2. Module coordinator**
- 3. Other teaching staff**

A question about a deadline for an assignment?

Getting to Know Your Tutors

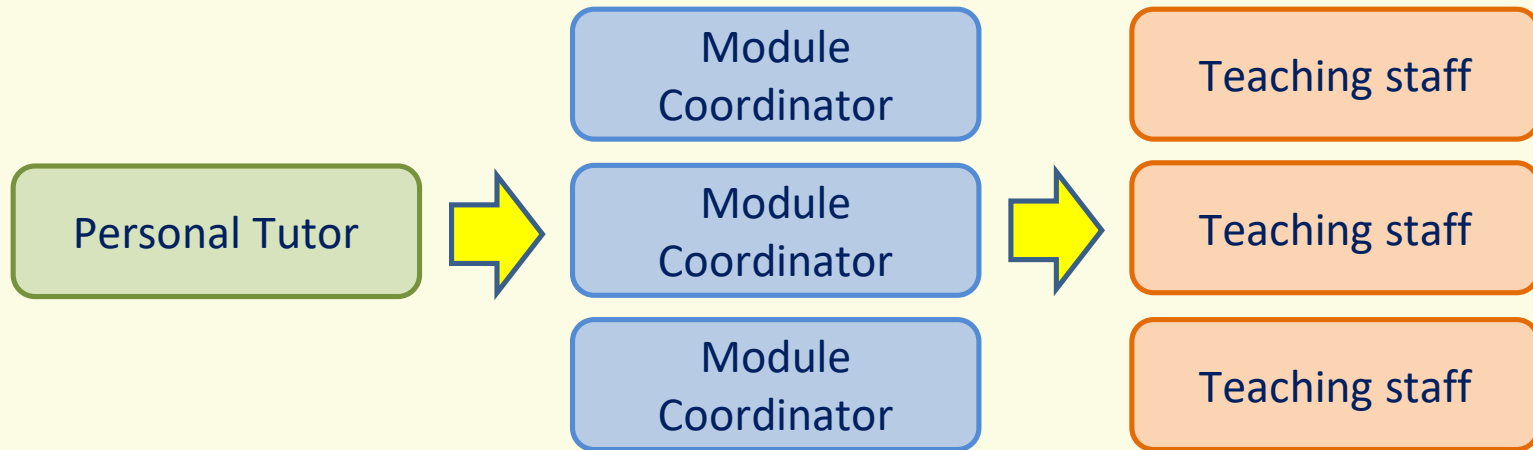


Quiz: Who might you approach for the following?

- 1. Personal tutor**
- 2. Module coordinator**
- 3. Other teaching staff**

A question about module choice for the next semester?

Getting to Know Your Tutors

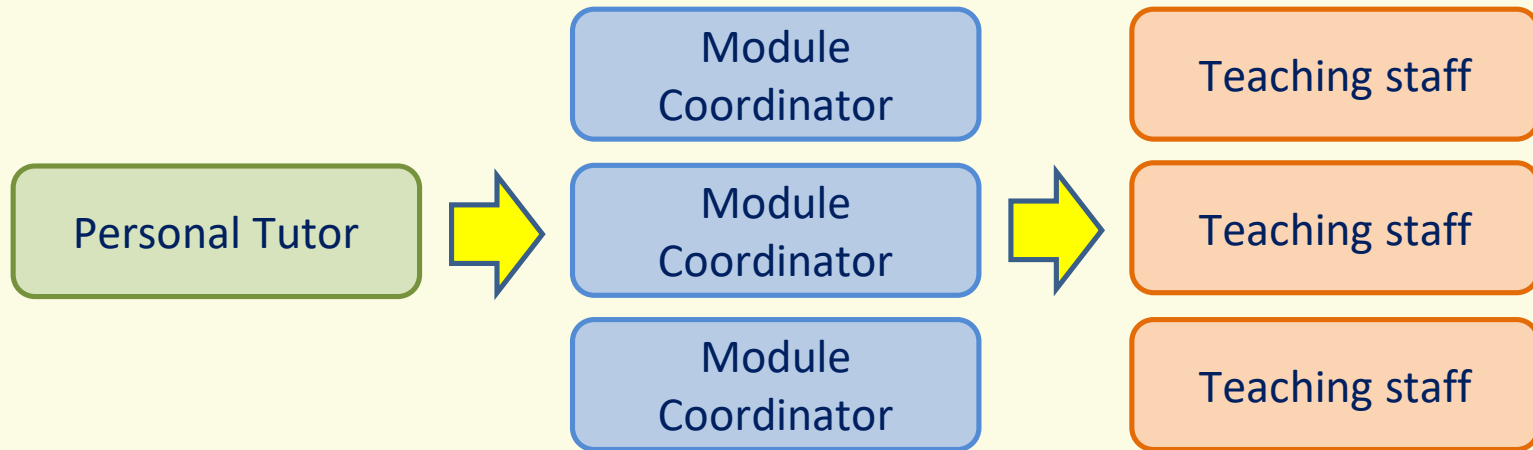


Quiz: Who might you approach for the following?

- 1. Personal tutor**
- 2. Module coordinator**
- 3. Other teaching staff**

A question about needing to take some time off for personal reasons?

Getting to Know Your Tutors



Quiz: Who might you approach for the following?

- 1. Personal tutor**
- 2. Module coordinator**
- 3. Other teaching staff**

A question about content from a specific seminar?

Getting to Know Your Tutor

- Your tutors have a set number of 'office hours' per week in which they will be available to students
- Your tutors will usually only respond to emails during working hours



Getting to Know Your Tutor

What my **personal tutor** can help with:

Advice on progress
grades and personal
development

Module choice;
overall programme
advice

References for part-
time jobs and
volunteering

Pastoral (non-
course related)
issues; exemptions

What my **personal tutor** can't help with:

Questions specific to
particular modules or
assignments

Reading or checking
your work

Day-to-day support
or advice

Registration, fees or
visa-related matters

Getting to Know Your Tutor

Other sources of support and advice:

Module tutors

Specific modules

Specific assignments

Clarification on content

Deadlines

Student course representatives

Issues with modules

Communications

Workload

Department admin

Student Services Information Desk

Registration status

Visa-related matters

Fee-related matters

Student and tutor expectations

Using Gmail:

- Your tutors and lecturers will communicate a lot of information to you via email
- It is important to read these emails, as it can give information on assignments, resources, lectures, tutorials, seminars, labs and exams



301 Academic Skills Centre





Introduction to 301

Study Skills



Maths and Statistics Help



Student Research



Peer Learning



Study Skills Online



Level Up Your Skills

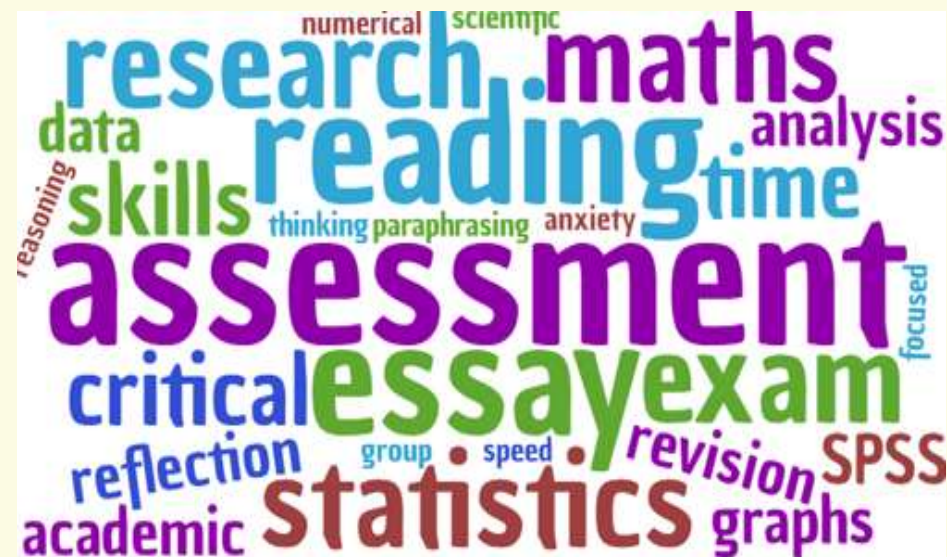




Study Skills



- Workshops and lectures covering a wide range of skills
- 1:1 Study Skills Tutorials
- Self-study online resources



For more information visit:

<https://students.sheffield.ac.uk/301>



Maths and Statistics Help



Maths and statistics help (MASH) for: course exercises, revision, dissertations, statistical software (e.g. SPSS) and more:

- 1:1 tutorials and drop-ins with specialist tutors
- Targeted workshop programme, including maths anxiety and numerical reasoning for job applications
- Self-study online resources



For more information visit:
www.sheffield.ac.uk/mash



Student Research



Resources and opportunities to support your research projects:

- Sheffield Undergraduate Research Experience (funded research opportunity in summer of second year)
- Student research conferences and competitions
- Student research journals
- Training and support for dissertation projects



For more information visit:

<https://students.sheffield.ac.uk/301/student-research>



Study Skills Online

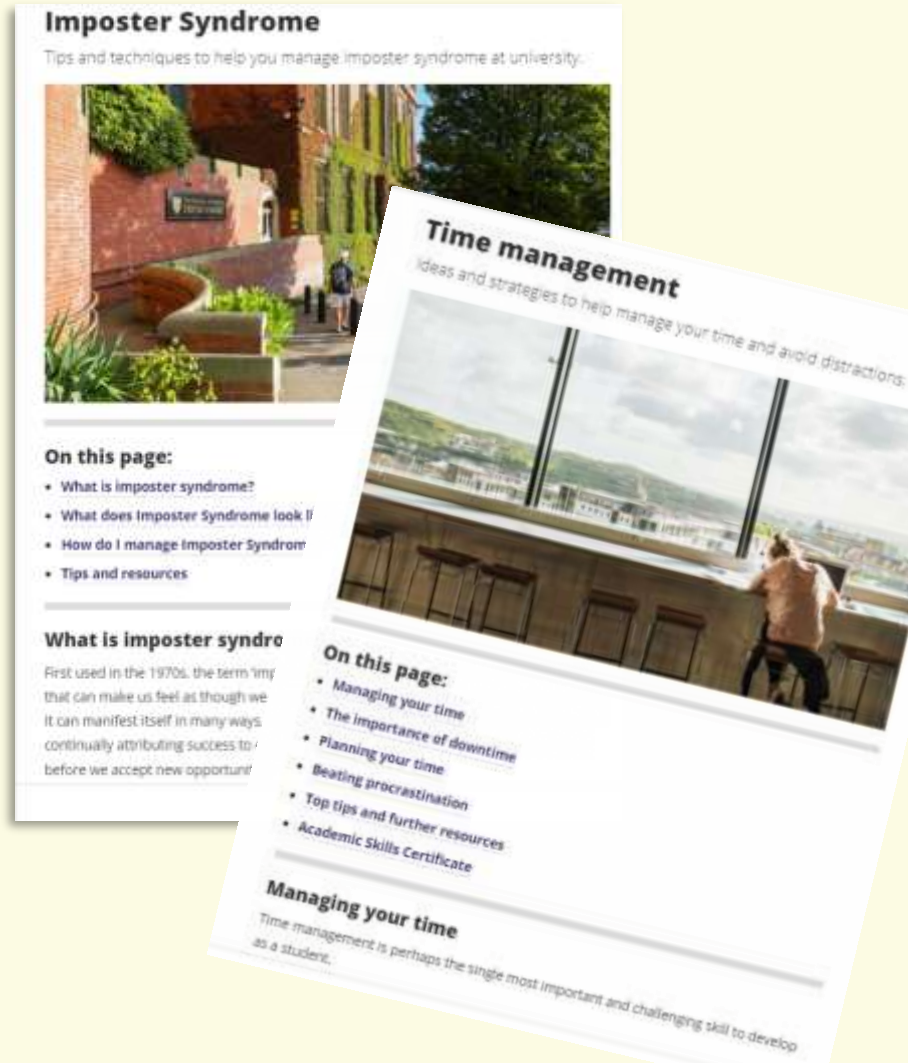


Digital resources to support your learning including:

- Information, strategies, tips and ideas
- Print downloads and resources
- Videos and interactive content
- Mini courses

For more information visit:

[sheffield.ac.uk/academic-skills/
study-skills-online](https://sheffield.ac.uk/academic-skills/study-skills-online)





Not sure where to start?



Level Up Your Skills

Pathways to support the transition
to your level of study:

- Take an academic skills audit to self-assess your skills
- Access a package of resources and develop your priority skills
- Reflect on your progress and gain an Academic Skills Certificate



For more information visit:
students.sheffield.ac.uk/301/level

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How to stay in touch with 301

Website: <https://students.sheffield.ac.uk/301>

Email: 301@sheffield.ac.uk

Twitter: [@301skills](https://twitter.com/301skills)

Instagram: [301academicskills](https://www.instagram.com/301academicskills)



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to be notified when our
new 2023-24 programme
is open for bookings!



Drop in and visit us at
301 Glossop Road

Any Questions?

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