

Helping the Transition from School to University

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Our main concern as educators must be to provide quality teaching and learning that will be effective in assisting students to master important concepts and develop significant cognitive skills while encouraging them to take responsibility for their own learning.

Most students straight from school expect to be spoon-fed with material to be quickly digested and regurgitated for tests and examinations. They arrive at different stages of intellectual development and with different learning styles.

The Wollongong model aims to accelerate the transition from the spoon-fed model to the independent learner model by giving the student choices and providing a wide variety of experiences to accommodate different learning styles. While the ultimate responsibility for learning is on the student particular emphasis in first year is placed on offering personal contact with staff despite increasing demands on staff time.

Personal contact with academic staff is provided by “in-office” tutorials. About 10 hours are available to students each week. These hours are spread over each day of the week and during those times different academic staff members are available to give help on request. Students are able to choose to whom and when they go.

A variety of teaching styles is provided by offering a choice of workshop tutorials conducted by different staff using their own style of presentation of specified material. These personal contacts support the basic program which is presented in a variety of modes and designed to be frugal of staff time. Only practical classes are mandatory and all specific course materials are available both in hard copy in the library and on the course web site.

The Wollongong Model

Available teaching/learning modes provided are:

Lectures:	2 x 1 hour per week
Workshop tutorials:	1 x 1 hour per week but students may attend as many or as few as they wish
In-office tutorials:	Minimum of 10 per week available. Students use as required.
Laboratory classes:	Total of 11, 1 x 3 hours per week. To pass course a minimum of 9 must be satisfactorily completed.
Pre-tutorial exercises:	Questions to be attempted before attending workshops.
Pre-laboratory exercises:	Written types are to be submitted the day before the lab. Interactive multimedia exercises on CD-ROM to be completed up to 30 minutes before the lab.
On-line practice examination:	Available as students require in library and on web site. The latter is marked for them on-line.
On-line assignments:	Individually generated on-line. To be printed, taken away for study and work and submitted by the deadline. Marked and recorded on-line.