

Study Skills Tips for Third Level

- New skills are needed
- You will have to change your study habits
- You are expected to work on your own for longer periods, without a tutor in the room to guide you
- You are given more responsibility for your own success
- It can feel as if your study lacks structure and detailed guidance.– BUT ...you have more freedom to study in ways that suit you
- Take advantage of this You CAN gain an understanding of your own learning pattern, so that you can study effectively

1. First consider - is your place of study optimised for efficient and rewarding study?

One of the keys to effective studying is finding a good location. It's difficult to study in a room full of distractions. However, the ideal location for you may not be the ideal study location for someone else. You may not like studying somewhere private, or even very quiet, but you do want to make sure that you study at a location that is conducive to your method of learning, allows you to concentrate, and is free of distractions.

See Study Skills Resource 'Place of Study'

2. A Reading and Learning Technique that works

SQRRR Study Method

Skim! Question! Read! Recite! Review!

This will help you build a framework to understand and remember what you read

See Study Skills Resource 'Study Method SQRRR'

3. Another useful tool is Mind Mapping

Mind Mapping is a thinking technique. It is great for **notemaking** – exploring your own thoughts, **planning, organising, thinking creatively, making associations and gaining insights** - and for **note-taking** – recording information in meetings, discussion, lectures etc. or summarising books and other written material.

The key to establish good technique and be prepared to experiment.

See Study Skills Resource 'Mind Mapping'

4. Have you considered your own personal Learning Style?

Learning styles were developed by Peter Honey and Alan Mumford, based upon the work of Kolb, and they identified four distinct learning styles or preferences: **Activist, Theorist, Pragmatist and Reflector**.

These are the learning approaches that individuals naturally prefer and they recommend that in order to maximise one's own personal learning each learner ought to:

- understand their learning style
- seek out opportunities to learn using that style

Follow the link for the Honey and Mumford Learning Styles Questionnaire, once you know how you prefer to learn it will make it easier to study

[See Study Skills Resource Honey and Mumford 'Personal Learning Styles Questionnaire'](#)

[See Study Skills Resource Honey and Mumford Learning Style Questionnaire 'Results Explained'](#)

5. Effective Lecture Note Taking

Making effective notes during lectures is crucial to the understanding and retention of information. You will attend many lectures/tutorials/seminars over the course of your degree, so it is important to keep a good, organised record of what you learn.

Never throw away notes; you never know when they will come in handy!

The following provides some helpful hints about how to make effective notes during lectures:

[See Study Skills Resource 'Effective Lecture Note Taking'](#)

6. Organisation

Good organisation is the key to being a successful student. Plan your tasks using a study timetable, daily planners and to-do lists to help you maximise your time management and become completely organised.

[See Study Skills Resource 'Being Organised'](#)

7. Exams

Exams are an inevitable factor in student life. Nearly everyone will have to sit exams at some stage and very few of us can get through them without the stress levels getting quite high. With the right preparation exams can be manageable allowing you to show how much you have learned which is what exams are all about.

[See Study Skills Resource 'How to cope with exams'](#)

[See Study Skills Resource 'General Tips for Answering Exam Questions'](#)