USING BLENDED LEARNING APPROACHES
AN ACADEMIC SKILLS SUPPORT TEAM COLLABORATES TO PROVIDE FLEXIBLE STUDY SKILLS RESOURCES

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BLENDED LEARNING

A recent definition of blended learning and its context of good practice has been outlined as follows:

there is a huge range of different blended approaches; the balance between online and

face-to-face components, and the integration of other methods, depends on the needs of

learners and the context within which the learning is implemented. The more innovative

of these approaches increase student engagement by enabling learning, thinking and

conversation across multiple spaces and over time. (Higher Education Academy, 2015,

"How does blended learning work?", para. 1)

UNISTART WORKSHOPS

UniStart workshops introduce new students to university study:

- Trimester 1 face to face, online workshops and online recordings

- Trimester 2 face to face, online workshops, online recordings and video tutorials

- Workshops delivered by Language and Learning Advisers, Liaison Librarians and Writing Mentors.

Figure 1: Unistart: the Ultimate Guide to Studying Online (Deakin University, 2016).
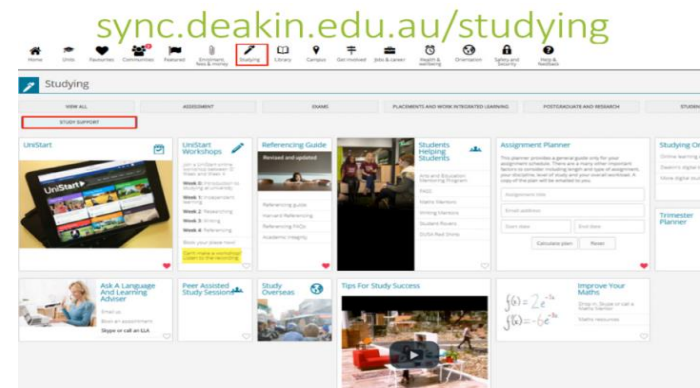
Figure 2: UniStart: Independent Learning (Deakin University, 2016)

UNISTART RESOURCES IN DEAKINSYNC

Online workshop recordings and pre-recorded video tutorials available on the DeakinSync website for students to access.
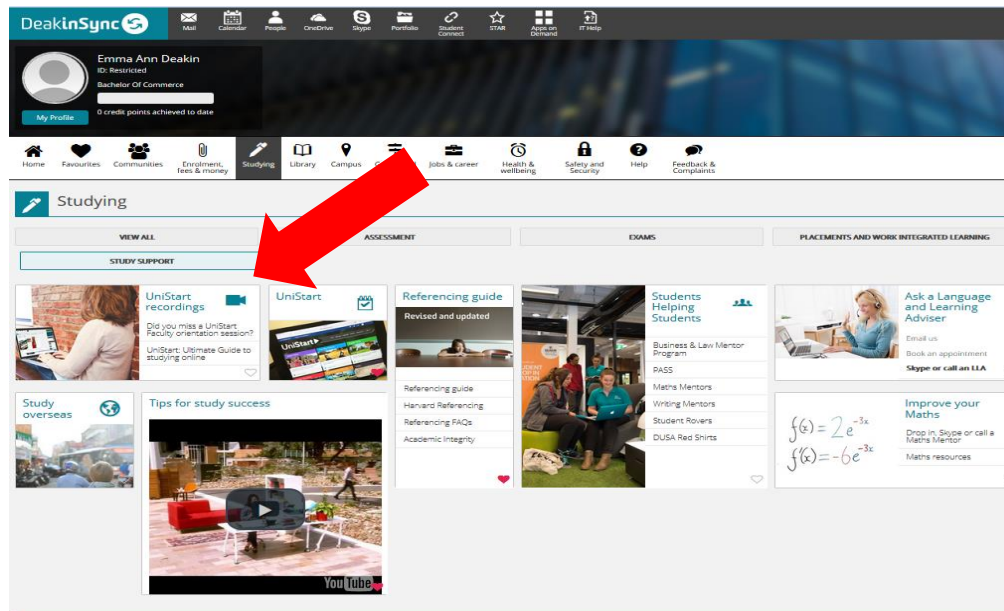

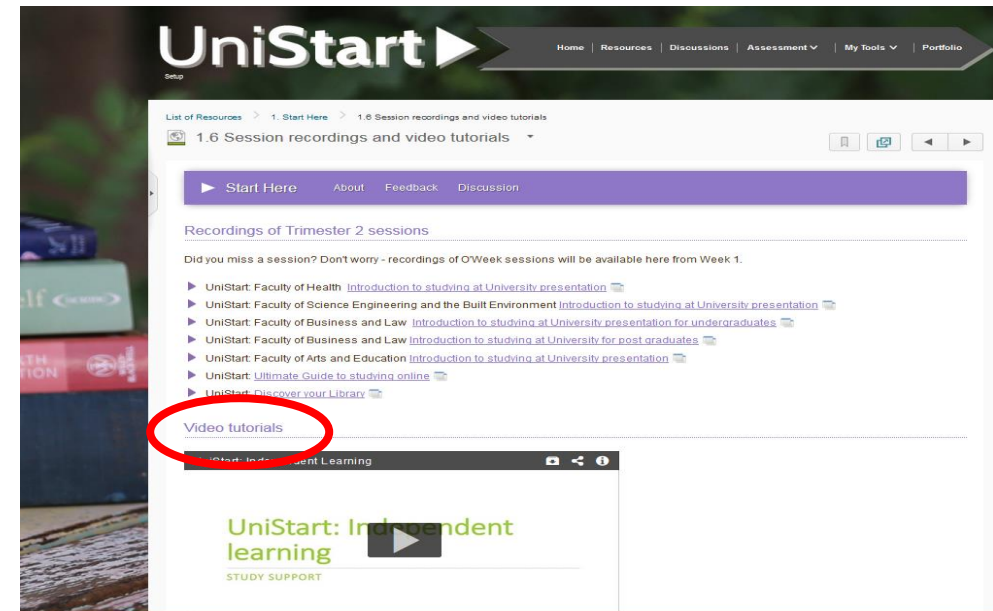*Figure 3*: Adapted from Study Support (Deakin University, 2016).

Figure 4: Adapted from Session recordings and video tutorials (Deakin University, 2016).

VIDEO TUTORIALS: PRE-RECORDED WORKSHOPS

- Trial of professionally developed video tutorials based on workshops 'Unistart: Independent learning' and 'Unistart: Get writing'.

- Approximately 20 minutes in length compared to one hour of recorded live workshops.

Figure 5: UniStart: Independent Learning (Deakin University, 2016).

Figure 6: UniStart: Get writing (Deakin University, 2016)

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Figure 7: Action Research Cycles (Passfield, 2014).

PROCESS OF DEVELOPING VIDEO TUTORIALS THROUGH COLLABORATION

- Respond to demand for high quality recorded UniStart videos
- Create scripts based on live UniStart workshops
- Collaborate with Writing Mentor and TeachAssist team
- Record videos
- Work with TeachAssist team who edit the video recordings and add features to enhance student engagement
- Study Support team link video tutorials to UniStart website
- Access ongoing report of number of students accessing the video tutorials
- Evaluate effectiveness of the video tutorials.

ROLE OF WRITING MENTOR

Writing Mentors provide a valuable student perspective in UniStart workshops.

Writing Mentor co-presenting the video tutorial provided insights for successful study, assisted with script development and gave editing input.

Figure 8: Writing Mentors (Deakin University, 2016).

ROLE OF TEACHASSIST

Figure 9: TeachAssist (Deakin University, 2016).

TeachAssist provides assistance to staff in using digital technologies (Deakin University, 2016).
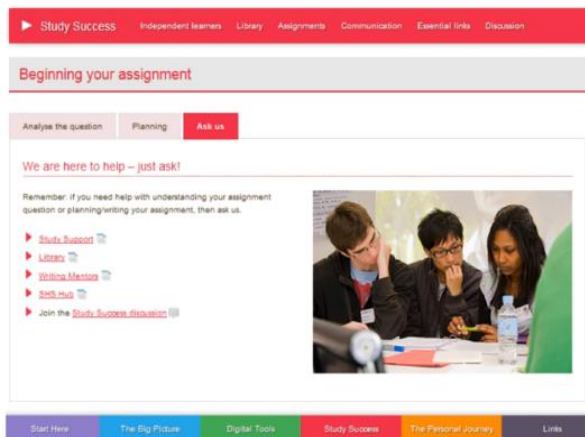
TeachAssist technical expert recorded and edited the videos.

Figure 10: The CloudMobile.

PRESENTATION OF VIDEO TUTORIALS

Figure 11: UniStart: Get writing (Deakin University, 2016).

Figure 12: UniStart: Independent Learning, (Deakin University, 2016).

PRESENTATION OF VIDEO TUTORIALS
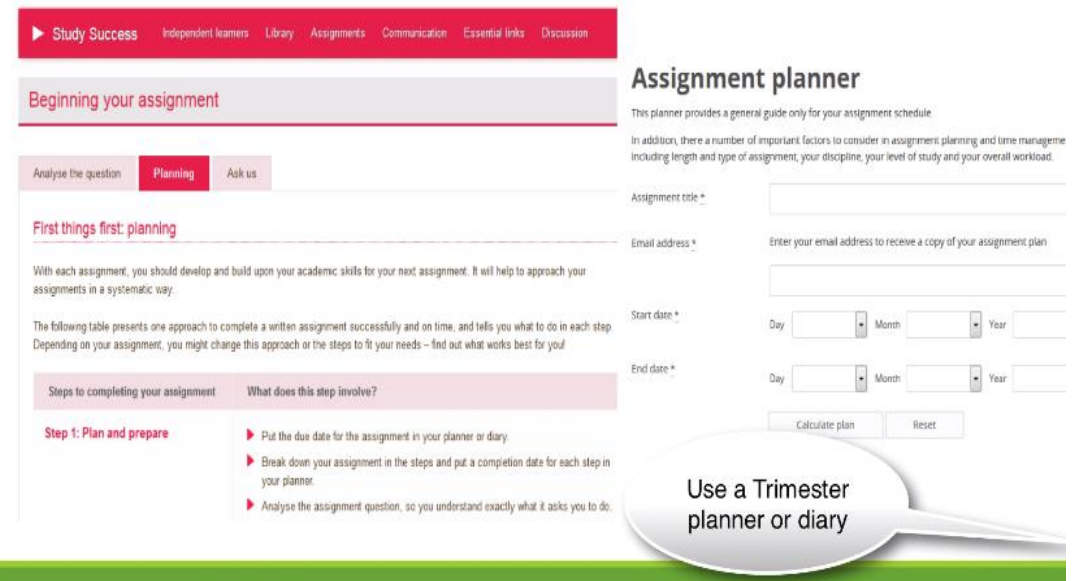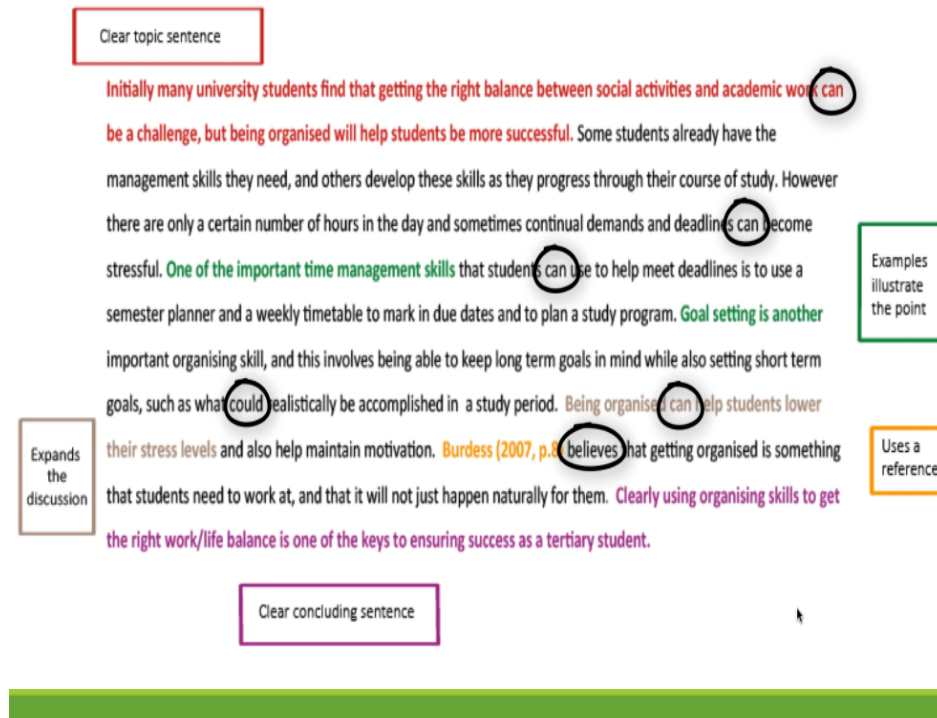

Figure 13: Unistart: Get writing (Deakin University, 2016).

Figure 14: UniStart: Independent Learning (Deakin University, 2016).

PRESENTATION OF VIDEO TUTORIALS

Academic writing – what to avoid:

🛑 Informal, colloquial language (e.g. contractions, idioms, etc.)
🛑 Bold statements
🛑 General, unclear sentences
▪ Unsupported claims

What do lecturers expect?

▪ Watch the video
▪ Think about:
What tip resonated with you? Why?

Figure 15: Unistart: Get writing (Deakin University, 2016).

Figure 16: UniStart: Independent Learning (Deakin University, 2016).

Figure 17: Action Research Cycles (Passfield, 2014).

BLENDED LEARNING APPROACH

Bonk, Graham, Crosse and Moore (2012, p.79) define "Enabling blends", which are most importantly "addressing issues of access and convenience for example, blends that are intended to provide additional flexibility to the learners or blends that attempt to provide the same opportunities or learning experience but through a different modality".

VIDEO TUTORIAL: INDEPENDENT LEARNING

Figure 17: UniStart: Independent Learning (Deakin University, 2016).

VIDEO TUTORIAL: GET WRITING

Figure 18: UniStart: Get writing (Deakin University, 2016).

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