



Trinity College Dublin
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
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The Online Learning Experience

Online learning is a flexible and effective way to study. Successful online learners are organised, connected, engaged and motivated. Developing these habits early on will allow you to get the most out of your studies.

The flexibility afforded by online learning does not mean that you can or should let things drift. As you may be working or caring for family alongside your studies, it is crucial that you develop both a weekly and term schedule that takes into account both regular and periodic learning requirements of the course as well as the other commitments in your life.

To develop a weekly schedule you should take into account that materials are normally released on Friday evening and that the live tutorial takes place the following Thursday. Between these two days, alongside your other commitments in life, you need to find the time to complete all of that week's learning tasks. Between Friday and Thursday your weekly schedule should cover all weekly learning requirements e.g. watching presentations and videos, finding and reading reference materials, posting to the blog or discussion forum.

Your semester schedule should take into account the periodic learning requirements e.g. the time to research, consider, write and edit assignments. Pay careful attention to the submission date for assessments as you will be penalised if you are late. For many students the time around assessment submission is associated with a high intensity of work so if you can, reducing other commitments at these times may be of benefit.

Without the physical stimulus of sitting in class a few times a week, online students need to be particularly aware of the sources of distraction when studying. Aligning your schedule with your motivation will help to reduce these distractions. Actively contributing to the online community on your course is also advisable as colleagues can help you to benchmark your progress, help you over any learning bumps and share their successful strategies for managing their time and learning.