

University of Tasmania Foundation Studies Program

Information for Parents





Sending a son or daughter to a foreign country for university study can be exciting and daunting for both students and parents. This guide is provided to help give information, ease concerns and to provide some guidance in preparing and supporting your child during their studies and life in Tasmania.

Challenge & Transition

As a Foundation Studies Program student, your child will be considered part of the University of Tasmania (UTAS) community. We are committed to making your child's life at university as easy as possible.

All new students face challenges in transitioning to their new situation. University life is very different to most high schools and the Australian lifestyle, culture and environment differs to those in your country too so it is natural that there is a period of adjustment. The most common areas that challenge new students are:

- Learning to balance new freedoms with greater responsibilities
- Managing time so study and other activities are well-balanced
- Settling into the new environment and lifestyle
- Building social connections with friends and the local community.

How Parents Can Help

- Encourage your child to choose a study path they are interested in and might enjoy
- Encourage participation in campus life (sports, clubs, activities, excursions) because content, socially-engaged students are generally the most successful
- Be realistic about expectations
- Try to understand the adjustments your son or daughter are experiencing and be supportive
- Listen to your son and daughter and provide time and space if they need to talk
- If you think your son or daughter is facing difficulties with their studies, encourage them to meet with their teachers, the academic manager or student advisers
- If you think your son or daughter is having difficulty with their new environment, balancing socialising and studies, money issues or interactions with others, support and encourage them to use the staff and services at UTAS that are here to help
- Keep track of the Foundation Studies Program calendar so you can see when your child has breaks or exams. Knowing where they are up to in the program can reduce their feelings of isolation and help communication.

Challenge & Transition

There are significant differences between life in school, the UTAS Foundation Studies Program and UTAS degree programs. It can be useful to be aware of these differences.

School	UTAS Foundation Studies Program	University
Attendance is compulsory.	While we expect and encourage students to achieve 100% attendance, student visa regulations and our internal policies require a minimum of 80% attendance.	When students are in a degree, attendance is generally not monitored.
Classes are scheduled to run continuously during each day.	Students attend approximately 22 hours of classes each week. These may be held at any time between 8:30am and 6:00pm.	Class times vary. As a general rule, students spend around 12-24 hours in class per week.
Teachers, supported by parents, remind students of their responsibilities (homework, books, timetables).	Students are treated as adults and whilst teachers remind them of their responsibilities, the expectation is that they organise their study and social life and take responsibility for their behaviour and academic success.	Staff expect students to be fully aware of their responsibilities and for this to be reflected in their behaviour and study habits.
Students are regularly reminded when homework and assignments are due.	Teachers remind students of any due dates for assigned work (though less frequently than at school) and students may be penalised if they don't meet the deadlines set.	Students are expected to read unit outlines and be aware of when assignments are due. Failure to do so can lead to penalties.
Assessments are reported in either percentages or grades. Parents & students receive reports periodically.	Assessment may include examinations at the end of each semester with results reported using a grade code (e.g. High Distinction, Distinction, Credit, Pass, Fail). Students also receive a Grade Point Average (GPA) out of 7 for subjects and their overall result. The overall result is used to assess admission to the degree course.	Assessments may include examinations held at the end of each semester with results reported using a Grade Code. A GPA score calculating the average of achieved grades across a course is also provided (maximum score 7)
Parents may be contacted by the school to report on academic progress and other general matters. Parents receive school reports.	For students under 18 years of age, UTAS can advise parents of course progress and attendance rates if contacted. For students 18 and older, UTAS expects parents to communicate directly with their child to receive this information. Results are reported directly to the student.	When in degree, privacy laws prevent UTAS from providing any personal information to another party and this includes parents and partners. The university communicates directly with the student at all times on all matters, including results.
Available learning resources generally include a modest school library with books and possibly access to online content.	Available learning resources include use of the large academic university library and MyLO, UTAS's online learning platform. All learning units include significant MyLO content which students are expected to access most days.	Available learning resources include the large university library and MyLO, UTAS's online learning platform.
Typically teachers are generalists or specialise in certain High School subject areas. They deliver a broad range of subject content.	Teachers are generally specialist faculty staff who also deliver in-degree units of study. They provide a bridge for Foundation Studies Program students to first year degree learning and can help smooth the path to tertiary studies.	Faculty lecturers and tutors are all specialists in their fields.
Expectations around study outside of class times may be as little as around 10 hours per week.	Students study 5 units each semester and teachers in all units on average expect 4-5 hours per week of extra study (online learning, reading, researching, group work, discussion board contributions etc.). Students are expected to do approximately 20-25 hours of work beyond class time each week.	Students generally undertake 4 units each semester and 5-10 hours of work each week for each subject is a fairly standard expectation.



Timetable and Academic Calendar

UTAS Foundation Studies Program students are in class for 22-23 hours per week. Each student is provided with a timetable during orientation. It's likely your son or daughter will have gaps between classes on some days. These times can be used to study privately or to utilise the range of on-campus facilities and services. Built into the timetable is a short study break prior to the exam period. Students do not need to attend classes during this time but may attend optional sessions provided by teachers to prepare for their exams.

The Foundation Studies Program Academic Calendar runs over two semesters and is available to download from the website. It can be used to plan travel and family trips. Students are made aware of their exam timetable at least a month before the exam period commences.

Privacy and Communications

UTAS operates under strict government privacy laws and we are prohibited from disclosing personal information about our students without the consent of the student concerned. There may be occasional exceptions to this, such as in matters of safety. However we request understanding if we are unable to answer a question about your son or daughter without their consent.

Foundation Studies Program students are considered and treated as adults and so we communicate directly with them and the expectation is that parents do the same. If after communicating directly with your son or daughter you don't obtain the information you want, further assistance is available by contacting a member of our Student Advisers team.

The exception to these rules is if your son or daughter is under the age of 18. In the case of students under 18, we can advise on course progress and attendance, if requested.

Student Visas

It's very likely your son or daughter has an Australian Student Visa and there are important issues for international students in relation to this.

It is a condition of enrolment in the Foundation Studies Program that students maintain at least 80% attendance. This is related to Australian Government regulations and is a UTAS policy. Students must also maintain satisfactory academic progress. Failure to do either of these two things can lead to UTAS notifying the Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP) and may result in a student enrolment being cancelled.

In accordance with both Australian Government and UTAS policy, it is also a requirement that students provide their current Australian residential address and contact details within 7 days of enrolment, and within 7 days of any changes to these contact details.

And Finally

The University of Tasmania Foundation Studies Program is a nurturing but challenging course that has long provided a rich pathway to academic success and fulfilling careers. We work hard to drive this success but it is a partnership with our students, who we expect to be motivated, curious and respectful, and their families. We look forward to helping your son and daughter make the transition to life at the University of Tasmania and appreciate the vital support families provide. If we can assist in any way, please be sure to make contact.

utas.edu.au/international/studying/foundation-studies-program



More information

To extend your knowledge about the University of Tasmania, please visit our website. You can discover more about our history, recent research achievements, courses offered and the application process:

utas.edu.au/international

utas.edu.au/courses

utas.edu.au/int-applying

utas.edu.au/int-scholarships

utas.edu.au/fees

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 utas.info/linkedin-edu

 instagr.am/universityoftasmania

 youtube.com/user/UniversityOfTasmania

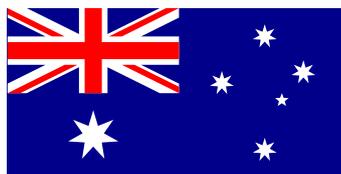
 weibo.com/utasuni

 i.youku.com/utaschina

For Chinese students please visit our Chinese website:
utaschina.cn

For interesting information about Tasmania, see:
discovertasmania.com.au

Useful contacts for future international students:
utas.info/international-enquiry
+61 3 8676 7017



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