STUDYSmarter UWA

STUDYSmarter:
Information for Staff

How we can help to improve your students’ learning and academic skill development
STUDYSmarter helps students with their study, communication, maths, writing and research skills.

Our aim is to provide innovative services to equip students of all capabilities with the language and learning skills required to achieve their academic potential. We run workshops, drop-in sessions and targeted consultations, and provide online and hard-copy resources.

Undergrads and coursework postgrads from any discipline can access our services.

**The STUDYSmarter team: About us**

STUDYSmarter consists of trained Learning Skills Advisers, English Language Advisers and a Numeracy Skills Adviser working within Student Support Services to assist students in developing their academic and study skills. We come from a variety of backgrounds and have specialist skills and knowledge in literacy, numeracy, English language, transition, research, and academic support.

We also love working with teaching staff to improve students’ skills and enhance their university experience. Feel free to contact us any time to find out more about how we can work with you (studysmarter@uwa.edu.au).
How we can help staff

Do students often ask you for advice on how to get better marks or improve their academic skills?

STUDYSmarter can help staff to improve their students’ study, writing, research and numeracy in a number of ways:

**We can help to develop your students’ basic skills in academic writing, researching and study.**
We provide programs and services designed to boost students’ generic academic skills at all levels, from first-year undergrad to coursework postgrad.

**We help students to know what is expected of them from their tutors and the University.**
We provide transition support and services to help students adapt to academic culture so that they can achieve their full potential while they are studying here.

**We can help with giving feedback and individual advice about general aspects of assignments, so you can focus on content.**
Through our on-campus drop-in services we are able to provide students with one-on-one feedback about generic aspects of their assignments, including structure, writing style, referencing, flow, grammar and use of sources, so you can focus your feedback on content and discipline knowledge.

**We can provide useful resources on specific topics that your students might need help with.**
We are happy to provide staff with specific resources around a variety of generic skill areas—including group work, academic conduct, essay or report writing, and grammar—that you feel your students would benefit from.
The impact of our program

A snapshot of what STUDYSmarter does

Students rated our workshops 4.4 stars out of 5 for overall quality

100% of survey respondents said our workshops offered them ‘useful and practical advice’

5217 Average no. of student visits to our on-campus services in one year*

CONSULTATIONS

37% Face to face
54% Email
9% Phone

68 Number of scheduled workshops run each semester

39250 Average no. of website views per year*

240 Hours of drop-ins held each semester

Students rated our drop-ins 4.3 stars out of 5 for overall quality

Students we see:

43.5% International
56.5% Domestic

Average perceived increase in writing/study skills reported by students after attending our workshops
13%

Students we see:

32% postgrad
68% undergrad
Study Skill workshops

Workshops
These 45-minute interactive group sessions provide expert advice on a wide variety of core academic skills, for undergraduate, Honours, and Masters students. Topics for undergrads include essay writing, referencing, managing time, reading strategies, critical thinking, and presentation skills. Our numeracy program includes algebra revision, study skills for maths, maths for science students, and statistics. The Honours and Masters program includes workshops on writing a literature review, managing a research project, and presenting your research. All of our workshops are free and many are repeated at alternative timeslots—and students don’t need to book, they can just come along. The workshop timetable is published each semester in STUDYSmarter’s pocketsize program calendar, and can also be found online.
On-campus drop-ins

**WRITESmart Drop-in**
10am-12 noon, weekdays during semester,
Reid Library ground floor

At Drop-in, students can spend 10-15 minutes one-on-one with a Learning Skills Adviser or Reference Librarian, for help with any element of study. Students can bring work in draft form and receive instant feedback on their writing, can get advice on strategies for successful study, and get help with referencing or finding scholarly material for assignments. There is no need to book—they can simply drop by!

**MA+hs Smart Drop-in**
10am-12 noon, Monday, Wednesday & Friday during semester, Barry J Marshall Library ground floor

(MA+hs)Smart Drop-in provides support for students undertaking maths or stats at any level. Students can drop in for help transitioning to tertiary maths study, or to catch up on pre-requisite content. Come with a particular question in mind, or just to work on maths on stats and ask for help if and when it’s needed. There is no need to book—students can simply drop by!
Online services

The STUDYSmarter website (studysmarter.uwa.edu.au) has a range of tools and resources including:

**YouTube videos**
Video versions of all of our workshops, plus many more at youtube.com/uwastudents. Check out the 30-Second Academy series for some short & fun study tips.

**Survival Guides**
Our brightly coloured study guides can be found in the libraries, and the whole collection is also available online.

**Assignment Date Calculator**
This popular tool helps students to plan out their assignments, giving them a suggested timeline with helpful links and tips.

**GETSmart Study Skills**
Everything you need to know about assignments, exams, time management, essays, maths, and more, all in one place—just click on the link on the homepage.
English Language support
Students who come from across the globe to study at UWA occasionally need help refining their English academic writing and speaking. Our two-hour, weekly English Language Bootcamps help students revise some basics for clear, grammatical writing, and confident English speaking, in a friendly and supportive environment.

Academic misconduct support
Ensuring that students understand expectations around academic conduct and ethical scholarship is an increasingly important element of university teaching. Our Referencing and Using Sources workshop can be integrated into your academic misconduct procedures as a condition for students who are guilty of a minor or moderate breach of academic conduct guidelines. Contact us at studysmarter@uwa.edu.au to discuss options for a faculty session.
How can we work with you?

There are a number of ways that we can work with staff across the university. We can provide resources, speak to students, provide information to teaching staff, and develop customised resources and workshops tailored to your students’ needs.

Below are some examples of collaborations we have worked on in the past.

**Administering diagnostics and running customised workshops for Engineering**

STUDYSmarter has provided ongoing support for a first year Engineering unit, administering a writing diagnostic and giving students feedback on their writing skills, then delivering a series of tailored communication skills workshops to assist students with their assessment tasks.

**Providing Survival Guides and LMS content, and speaking in an Anthropology tutorial**

We have worked with the Unit Coordinator of an upper-level Anthropology unit to pull together some of our resources around essay writing into a booklet for distribution to students. We have also provided custom LMS content with links to our website, and have spoken briefly in tutorials about our services.
Case studies

Creating a customised video and LMS quiz for a first-year Psychology unit
We have created a customised video for a large first-year Psychology unit on writing for psychology, covering sentence/paragraph structure and common mistakes. We have also created a quiz to accompany this video, which students were required to complete through the LMS.

Running a range of plagiarism workshops for ALVA/Education students
STUDYSmarter has supported ALVA’s Academic Misconduct Policy by providing counselling for students who have been found to have engaged in academic misconduct. We also worked in conjunction with the EDFAA Librarians to deliver workshops to support students’ understanding of referencing, plagiarism and appropriate academic behaviour.

Providing slides and tutor packs for Business School tutor training
We have provided powerpoint slides and customised tutor packs, with examples of our materials and information about our services, for the Business School to use in their training and induction session for new tutors.
What can we offer you?

Below are some of the things that we currently offer to teaching staff. Depending on your needs and the needs of your students, we are able to develop more specific resources upon discussion.

**Online and print resources**

We can provide:
- STUDYSmarter slides for display in lectures/tutorials
- Digital learning resources (e.g. videos, guides, links) for inclusion in LMS units, web pages, etc.
- Tutor packs with information about support services
- Copies of Survival Guides, STUDYSmarter flyers and posters for display or dissemination in classrooms
- Customised Survival Guides related to a unit’s assignments or learning outcomes
- Automatic group subscriptions to our weekly e-newsletter, GETSmart News

**On-campus services**

We can:
- Come and speak in a lecture (approx. 5-10 mins) about STUDYSmarter services and support
- Provide academic conduct workshops as part of a targeted response to student plagiarism
- Negotiate referrals for students who have complex learning needs, e.g. time management, English language development or pre-requisite maths content
- Invite tutors or teaching staff to run a ‘pop-up’ consultation hour for students alongside us at WRITESmart Drop-in
Staff collaboration and consultation

We can:
- Present information sessions about STUDYSmarter services to groups of staff, sessional tutors or advisers.
- Consult with staff to provide feedback on assessment questions and rubrics (e.g. for writing and speaking tasks)
- Consult with staff to recommend resources for scaffolding student learning within units
- Supply data on students’ uptake of STUDYSmarter services

We provide the above services free to UWA Staff, however we do need advance notice for requests, particularly during busy times.

We are also available to work with staff on more extensive projects, including customised workshops, lectures, videos, diagnostic assessments and other specialised resources or interventions. Due to the increased workload and staff commitment of such requests, they may involve charges; please contact us to find out more.

We’d love to work with you to help improve your students’ learning and skill development. If you are interested or want to find out more about what we can offer, please contact us via studysmarter@uwa.edu.au
FAQs

Can my student make a one-on-one appointment with a member of your team?
During semester we ask that students first visit us during our drop-in sessions held in the Reid and Barry J. Marshall libraries. However, if a student does not feel comfortable seeking academic support in a shared space, or has an enquiry out of semester, we are happy to see them by appointment at our offices in Student Central.

Do you proofread or edit students’ work?
No. We can provide feedback on the structural elements of a student’s draft work, and will point out and explain repeated grammatical mistakes, but do not provide formal proofreading. Students are responsible for proofreading their own work; we aim to give them the tools and confidence to be able to do so.

Can a student see you before they have started an assignment?
Yes! At WRITESmart Drop-in, we are happy to help students talk through initial ideas and form an essay or assignment plan. They can also work with a Librarian to find appropriate scholarly material to cite from UWA’s catalogue.

A number of students in my class require additional support to improve their English language. Can you provide tailored support for my students?
Students are welcome to come as a group to our weekly English Language Bootcamps to improve their written and spoken English. Additionally, we are happy to discuss options for workshops specific to your faculty or school. Please email us at studysmarter@uwa.edu.au for more information.

My unit has a statistics component, but a number of students are unfamiliar with the basics of stats—can you help?
Yes! (Ma+hs)Smart runs workshops on descriptive and inferential statistics at undergraduate level, and the use of statistics at Honours/Masters level. Students are also welcome to attend (Ma+hs)Smart Drop-in throughout the semester for further help.
Contact us

You can contact us by email:

studysmarter@uwa.edu.au

Or find out more about our program on the STUDYSmarter website:

www.studysmarter.uwa.edu.au

Find us

We are located on the second floor of Student Central—the building opposite the Co-op Bookshop.