



Managing your study load

Study load for domestic students

What is your optimum study load?

A full-time study load may be perfect for you. It is the preferred option for many students. Or, it might be causing you avoidable stress.

Everyone has different commitments that they need to fit around their studies. At university, you can choose the number of units you take each semester.

If you need help planning your studies, reach out to our Student Experience Team for support.

Addressing some myths

Determining the study load that best suits your needs can be a difficult decision and may change across semesters. You will need to think about the other commitments in your life.

Below are some myths about reducing your load.

Myth 1: Reducing my load means I will take longer to complete my degree

Taking the right load for you often means that you complete your degree *sooner*. This is because you are more likely to pass all units when you take your optimum load.

If you can match your load to the time you have available, it is also likely that your weighted average mark (WAM) and Grade Point Average (GPA) will be higher.

Note: your GPA and WAM are considered when applying for honours and postgraduate courses.

Myth 2: I might lose touch with people I have got to know

You can always make time to keep up with friends outside of class. And if you reach out, you will find that many classmates are looking to make new friends.

A new cohort is an opportunity to form a broader network.

Myth 3: Reducing my load will cost more overall

Taking the optimum number of units reduces your chances of failing and incurring a debt for units that don't count towards the completion of your degree.

Deciding on a study load

There are a number of factors that you should take into account when you consider how many units to take each semester.

Before deciding on your study load, ask yourself the following questions.

How many hours of paid or volunteer work will I be doing?

Many students are also working. Whether it's a casual job in retail, volunteer work or a professional role, it all takes time and energy. Make sure you factor in this time and your financial needs when planning your study load.

Ensure you check the total time limit for your degree within your course details while planning your study load.

What family or carer responsibilities do I need to factor in?

Many students care for children, parents, other family members or friends. Make sure you plan for the time required to meet these important responsibilities.

If you are a carer for someone with a medical condition or disability, you can get support to help you manage your study load. Visit [Accessibility Support](#) to explore available services.

Is this my first time living away from my family home?

Living independently for the first time is exciting, however it might require you to factor in some extra time. Don't forget to allocate time needed for:

- shopping
- cleaning
- preparing food
- paying bills
- socialising.

How much travel time will I need?

Consider the amount of time it will take to travel to university.

Am I taking a unit that presumes some knowledge that I'll need to acquire?

Every unit will have some challenging material.

However, if, for example, you are taking that compulsory mathematics unit after years of avoiding mathematics, then plan for the extra time you may need to catch up.

We offer [academic skills support](#) that can help you to catch up on your academic skills.

Do I have a medical or learning condition?

Many students with a medical or learning condition excel at university.

Whether you have migraines, dyslexia, depression, ADHD, painful menstrual cycles or something else, it is important to acknowledge that managing this takes extra time.

If you have a medical condition and/or disability that may impact your capacity to study, you can get support to manage your study load. Support is available whether your condition is ongoing, temporary or episodic. Visit [Accessibility Support](#) to explore available services.

Am I returning to study after a long break?

Your life experience will help you to be successful as a university student. However, you will be developing or brushing up on academic skills like:

- essay writing
- research
- referencing.

Take into account that this will take you some additional time in your first couple of semesters as you learn about or re-acquaint yourself with academia.

We provide personalised and practical [academic skills support](#) to help you improve your academic skills.

Am I receiving a scholarship or bursary that will be impacted?

Reducing your study load may impact your eligibility to continue receiving a scholarship, bursary or fee-waiver. Seeking advice from the Student Experience Team before changing your enrolment can help you to understand any potential impacts and make an informed decision.

Advice for international students

If you are an international student studying on a student visa, seek advice from the Student Experience Team before changing your enrolment. Changing your enrolment or study load may impact your visa.