



## HOW IS UNI DIFFERENT TO HIGH SCHOOL?

University is different to high school in many ways. Preparation starts from day one. It involves getting organised, actively participating in all learning activities and getting help from lecturers, tutors and support staff when needed.

	High school	Uni
Enrolment	Parents and/or guardians enrol students	You manage your own enrolment
Identity	Many staff and other students know you by name	You must make yourself known to students and staff in your courses
Mode of study	Mainly face-to-face	Options to study on campus, online or externally
Classes	Classes are small	Class sizes vary from small to large, actual to virtual
Attendance	Most students are minors and school attendance is compulsory	Students could be any age. Attending your classes is your responsibility: make it a priority
Technology	Students use e-mails and learning management systems to submit assignments	All students require skills to use an array of technology, such as power point, word, excel, SPSS, Learnjcu  Students need to check their e-mail daily during the semester for all university communication
Learning	Teachers direct learning, providing prompts and reminders	Learning is self-directed  The subject outline contains an overview of the subject: expectations, assessments, texts, required and recommended readings and an overview of weekly content and tasks  Content may be delivered face-to-face or online
Assessment	Teachers direct assessment, providing prompts and reminders	Assessment information is provided at the beginning of the course in the subject outline
Referencing	Students learn the basic elements of referencing their research resources	Detailed referencing is required. Students are responsible for ensuring they follow the correct referencing style  Copying information is treated as plagiarism and attracts penalties

Exams	Infrequent and mainly limited to senior years	Are a key assessment item. They can occur at any time during the study period but mostly take place in the 2-week exam block at the end of each semester (after a 1-week study vac.)
Deadlines	Teachers may allow extra time on assignments	Assignments must be submitted by the due date, unless changed by the lecturer  Formal extensions are available on application, only on medical and compassionate grounds
Results	Communication is sent to parents/ guardians	Student communication, including grades, is treated as confidential and communicated only to the student
Academic year	Four school terms with breaks for holidays	Generally, there are two main study periods, with study breaks, and summer or winter elective course options
Timetable	School hours are regular and predictable	Each student's timetable varies depending on the course
Jobs	Some students have part-time jobs	Most students work, and must balance study and work
Costs	Costs are predictable and payable within a certain timeframe	Costs vary across degrees and courses  Additional costs can include student fees, books, uniforms and specialised equipment

**Useful strategies:**

- Whatever you do, always keep your goal in mind
- Attend classes, participate, think, wonder, question and critique (Taylor, 2016, p.2)
- Plan and prepare! (Taylor, 2016, p.2). Managing your time is essential to your success)
- Be open-minded; actively seek out new knowledge; reflect, and use feedback to help you improve (Taylor, 2016, p.2)
- [Seek support from JCU when you want/need it](#)

**Useful links:**

[http://www.unisa.edu.au/Global/New%20students/documents/USA\\_008%20SmartStart%202015\\_A4\\_FINAL%20WEB\\_smaller.pdf](http://www.unisa.edu.au/Global/New%20students/documents/USA_008%20SmartStart%202015_A4_FINAL%20WEB_smaller.pdf)

**Reference:**

Taylor, D. (2016). *iAspire student support: Making the days count* [Brochure]. Retrieved from <https://research.jcu.edu.au/portfolio/donnalee.taylor/>