



UNSW Foundation Studies Parent Information

Never Stand Still

UNSW Foundation Studies

Studying in a university environment and in a foreign country is a new and exciting step for both students and their parents. This information is provided as a first step to assist you in preparing your son or daughter for life at UNSW Foundation Studies.

UFS Environment

Your son or daughter will find UNSW Foundation Studies (UFS) very different from high school. The University of New South Wales (UNSW) campus is much larger than most high schools and we consider our students to be a part of the UNSW community.

Every student is different and some may adapt more easily than others; however, virtually all new students will require a period of adjustment in the following areas:

- Environment and settling in to a new lifestyle
- Social support
- Time management – balancing study and other commitments
- Balancing their new freedom and flexibility with increased responsibilities



Differences between School, UNSW Foundation Studies and University

School	UNSW Foundation Studies	University
Attendance is compulsory.	Students are expected to attend all classes. Minimum of 80% attendance is required as per student visa regulations and UFS policy.	Attendance is not generally monitored.
Parents and teachers remind students of their responsibilities.	Teachers remind students about their responsibilities but students are treated as adults and are expected to take responsibility for their own study, social life and their behaviour.	Students are expected to be aware of their responsibilities and to adapt their behaviour accordingly.
Classes are held continuously throughout each day.	Students attend 17–25 hours of classes each week between 9am and 6pm depending on the stream.	Students spend 12–20 hours in class per week. Class times vary from early morning to late in the evening.

UNSW Foundation Studies... the best start to university



Differences between School, UNSW Foundation Studies and University

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The amount of study outside class can be as little as 10 hours per week in total.	Students are expected to do approx. 20 –25 hours of extra study each week and attend free, one-on-one consultations for additional assistance.	The amount of study outside class can be as much as 5 –10 hours for each subject every week.
Classes generally have less than 35 students.	Students attend large group lectures on the UNSW main campus; maximum tutorial class size is usually 18 students.	Students attend lectures with several hundred students at a time and smaller tutorial classes.
Teachers remind students about assessment due dates.	Teachers remind students of assignment due dates – students may be penalised if they fail to meet deadlines.	Students are expected to know when assessments are due by reading the subject outline – students may be penalised if they fail to meet deadlines.
Parents receive twice-yearly reports that include teacher comments.	Results are provided directly to the student (via the student intranet) rather than to the parent. Results for each subject are reported after each Semester. Grades range from 'A+' to 'F' and students will be invited to discuss their grades with teaching staff.	Universities will deal directly with the student, not the parent. Results are reported after the completion of each unit of study. Grades range from High Distinction to Fail and do not include comments from teachers.
Schools may contact the parents to report about the student's academic performance and about administrative matters.	UFS expects that parents will communicate with their son or daughter to find out about their course progress. If students are under the age of 18, UFS can advise parents about course progress and attendance as necessary.	Due to NSW privacy laws, personal information cannot be given to another party, including parents and partners. The university has a contract with the student and communicates directly with them at all times.
The school community is typically restricted to teaching staff and students.	UFS invites subject experts and academic staff to present and speak to the students.	Universities invite subject experts and academic staff to present and speak to the students.
School exams are written by school teachers or government education boards.	UFS teachers write exams, which are then approved by UNSW Academic staff for accuracy and appropriateness for undergraduate study.	Exams are typically written by academic staff.
Schools typically have a modest library to meet their needs.	UFS has a language support library and a very large academic library with books, journals and electronic publications.	Universities usually have a large academic library.

Timetables

You can expect that your son or daughter may not be in class all day. Most timetables have gaps in them, which students can use for private study or to explore the vast range of services and activities available to them at UNSW.

Academic Calendar

The UFS academic calendar is available for download from our website (www.ufs.unsw.edu.au/academic-calendar-fees.html). Detailed exam calendars are given to students at least one month before the published exam week. These calendars can also be used to plan family visits and return trips. Please request these details from them once they commence their studies at UFS.

Important Information

There are important issues affecting visas for international students that you should be aware of such as attendance, student behaviour and academic progress.

The Australian Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) requires international students on a student visa to maintain an attendance record of at least 80%. UFS policy requires all students (including Permanent residents and Citizens of Australia) to maintain at least 80% attendance as a condition of their enrolment.

As a condition of their visa, international students must also maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress. If a student fails more than two of their courses, UFS is required to report the student to DIAC. This may lead to the student enrolment being cancelled.

UFS policy, in accordance with DIAC regulations for student visa holders, require all students (including Permanent residents and Citizens of Australia) to provide UFS with their current Australian residential address and contact details within 7 days of enrolment and 7 days of a change in any of these contact details.

Advice for Parents

Your son or daughter may experience difficulty with some issues related to their transition. As a parent, there are several key things you can do to help make them easier:

- Encourage your son or daughter to take advantage of range of services available (including free one on one consultations, and extracurricular activities arranged by the UFS Student Experience Officer) and resources such as Student Advisers and the Accommodation Officers.
- Encourage your son or daughter to choose a UFS program (and a university course) that they are interested in and might enjoy.
- Take a positive interest in your son or daughter's life – particularly in the progress of their studies and their personal, social and sporting achievements.
- Have realistic expectations.
- Try not to push too hard– this is a period when they need to manage many situations independently.
- Listen to your son or daughter if and when they need to talk.
- If you think your son or daughter is not coping with their studies, encourage them to discuss their studies or situation with their lecturers, teachers, or Student Advisers.



www.ufs.unsw.edu.au
www.facebook.com/UNSWUFS



Privacy Legislation and Information Given to Parents

UFS is subject to NSW privacy legislation and therefore is not able to disclose personal information about its students without the consent of the student concerned. There are some exceptions to this, such as in matters of safety. Please do not be offended if you are told that UFS is not able to answer a question about your son or daughter without their consent.

UFS considers the student to be an adult and will communicate directly to them. UFS expects that parents will communicate with their son or daughter to find out about their course progress. However, if students are under the age of 18, UFS can advise you about course progress and attendance as necessary.

If, after attempting to obtain information from your son or daughter, you are still unable to do so, further assistance can be provided by contacting Student Services who will forward the request to the appropriate staff member.

Phone: 61 2 9385 5396

Email: admissions@unswglobal.unsw.edu.au

Fax: 61 2 9662 2651



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