Course Overview: Study Start

**Aims**

- To assist international students in settling in to the academic culture of the UK
- To raise awareness of writing conventions in different academic discourse communities
- To develop and practise effective study and time management skills
- To develop referencing skills
- To raise awareness of the expectations and standards at the appropriate level of study
- To maximize students’ chances of succeeding in their degree programmes in the UK
- While other new students are still finding their way round campus and struggling to figure out where things are, you will have had a chance to discover everything Lancaster has to offer you as an international student.

**Sample Week**

Students will generally receive around 3 classroom-based sessions per day; one-on-one tutorials on a weekly basis with their own personal Tutor and scheduled time for self-study. Students must be able to manage their own time efficiently and productively and there are periods of private self-study built into this course, so that students have the opportunity to develop good time-management skills. Students will need to do a substantial amount of reading as well as writing and redrafting of assignments during these periods and in the evenings in order to meet the deadlines set by their Tutors.

**Assessment**

The main assessment method is a written assignment (1000 words) to be submitted in several stages before final submission at the end of the course. The feedback you get on this assignment will help you decide which aspects of your work to prioritise when your degree coursework starts.

Many Lancaster University departments assess students using long-form written coursework (e.g. essays, reports, projects and dissertations).

In order to make you aware of how to write assignments that meet the expected level at Lancaster, some of the areas we cover on Study Start are:

- analyzing assignment titles
- structuring assignments
- reading techniques
- incorporating sources into writing
- appropriate referencing and citation techniques
- understanding plagiarism
- effective summarizing and paraphrasing
- critical thinking and persuasive argumentation
- academic style including hedging

You will apply these techniques in an assessed assignment. In doing so, you will be supported by your tutors in class as well as in individual tutorials. You will also learn more about how to take part in seminar discussions and give oral presentations at Lancaster University.
Social events

There will be a reception at the beginning of the course, a weekend trip to another UK city (e.g. York, Chester or Manchester), and an end-of-course party. In addition, you will have some free time to socialise with Study Start students and students on other summer programmes in a number of venues on campus and in Lancaster town centre.