Support for higher degree research students

The role of the Academic Skills team

Your primary and most important resource is your supervisory team. Use it as much as you can. The Academic Skills staff is available for additional help specifically targeted at developing the range of skills involved in postgraduate research.

What is available from the Academic Skills team?

• Free, confidential, one-to-one consultations for advice on academic skills involved in postgraduate research; for example, staff can assist you with improving your writing (structure, style, grammar, punctuation) and avoiding plagiarism.

• Factsheets dealing with the most common writing problems. These can also be downloaded from the Academic Skills website (see address in footer).

• Access to a small library of study skills-related books which can be used or borrowed.

• Referral source to other resources; for example, we can provide you with useful links to other study skills website.

• A list of contact details for professional proofreaders.

What is not available?

• Advice about content issues.

• Technical or specialised support such as statistical, methodological design or information technology help.

• We do not edit, proofread or rewrite. If academic writing is a problem, come and see us for advice early in the writing stage.

Some useful resources:

• Check the links from the Academic Skills website to a range of grammar, referencing and writing style sites to help you with your sentence structure and writing style. From the Academic Skills homepage, click on ‘Online Study Skills Workshops’, and then click on ‘Academic Writing’.

• For resources on research skills, such as searching for information, evaluating sources and writing your thesis, go to eSKILLS Plus on the UNE library website, and click on Support.

• If English is not your first language, it is sometimes difficult to know if words ‘go’ together particularly prepositions following adjectives or nouns. A useful tool is a concordancer. This program will match groups of words with a database of millions of texts, showing you the more likely combinations of words, and helping you to make your English writing sound more natural. Try the online concordancers at

  http://vlc.polyu.edu.hk/concordance/
  http://www.lextutor.ca/concordancers/

• Try the Academic Phrasebank which is a plagiarism-free resource for academic writers. It provides you with examples of some of the phraseological ‘nuts and bolts’ of writing organised according to the main sections of a research paper or dissertation. Find at

  http://www.phrasebank.manchester.ac.uk/
The Academic Skills team can help you to develop these research skills:

Contact details
Website: [http://www.une.edu.au/current-students/resources/academic-skills](http://www.une.edu.au/current-students/resources/academic-skills)
Online Bookings: Click on 'BOOK ONLINE' at the above site.
Email: asohelp@une.edu.au
Phone: 02 6773 3600