

Balanced Teaching Periods 2017: Preparing for Orientation and Week 1



Gold: Best practice

This guide offers some further ideas on preparation activities you might like to discuss with your IML [Faculty Learning Technologist](#) or IML [Academic Liaison](#). Do remember not to overload your students with preparation, but some of these ideas might inspire you to move beyond basic interactions to give your students the very best start under the new Balanced Teaching Periods.

What to do	Why?	Get help
Link to a UTSONline preparatory quiz	Setting up a multiple choice quiz in UTSONline is a fantastic tool for the students to gauge their knowledge coming into the subject. It is also a really useful way for you to assess the level of knowledge of the new cohort. Don't forget to link your quiz to self-help resources for students.	Instructions on how to create a quiz Instruction on how to deploy a quiz Linking a quiz to a graphic tile Contact your IML Faculty Learning Technologist if you need assistance.
Link to frequently asked questions (FAQs)	Creating a frequently asked questions section will save you and your students a lot of time and frustration. FAQs allow the students to self manage common problems and will reduce the amount of email you receive from students.	There is a variety of ways to approach this idea. Contact your IML Faculty Learning Technologist if you need assistance.
Expectations survey/poll	<p>Poll students and share insights with them in the first class. This provides you with early insights on the student cohort and an early opportunity to adjust accordingly.</p> <p>Some suggested questions you could ask: What would students like to gain from studying in the subject? What they are looking forward to? Anything they are concerned about?</p> <p>Keeping it private allows students to express fears, concerns, strengths and weaknesses which can give you valuable insights.</p> <p>Tools you could use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• UTSONline survey tool• SPARKplus in survey mode	Instructions on how to create a survey Instruction on how to deploy a survey Alternatively feel free to contact your Faculty learning technologists for assistance.

Introduce the students to some of the writing tools used for avoiding plagiarism

Submit two exemplars of writing through Turnitin inside UTSONline. One is 'good' academic writing the other 'bad'. Make the Turnitin reports available to students.

Some benefits are that students are introduced to Turnitin (use and benefits) and experience the process of submitting written assignments in UTSONline. This may help to set the context as "good academic practice" right at the start.

Additionally link to the UTS avoiding plagiarism module: <https://avoidingplagiarism.uts.edu.au>

[UTSONline Turnitin tool](#)

Your [Faculty Learning Technologists](#) can provide support if needed.

Use Lynda.com to help students to develop skills that they'll need for the subject

Students can get a head start on some essential skills that they'll need, or check or extend their skills.

Lynda.com is available through the library and has a wide range of modules that might be relevant to students, for example Excel skills, English grammar, specialist software tools.

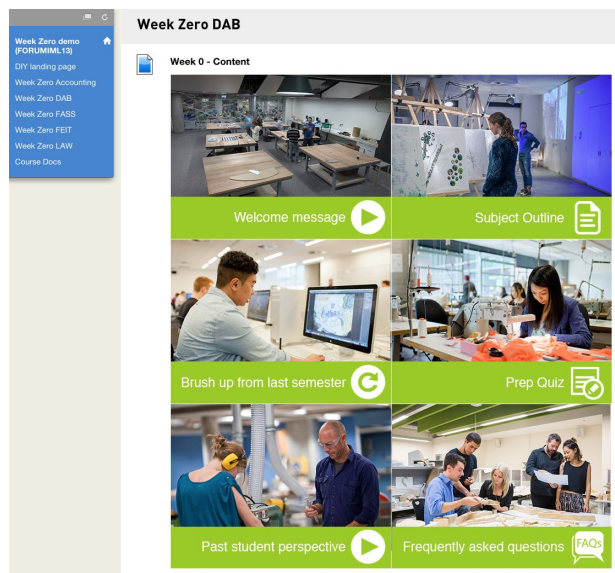
[Lynda.com](#) is available through the library.

Links to modules can be embedded in UTSONline, so that students can gain access without logging in again. [Instructions on how to do this.](#)

Creating a customised DIY UTSONline landing page

If you have some great preparation activities, you might like to improve how your students see them! Below is a screenshot of a visually appealing navigation system specifically aimed at improving

student access to preparation activities. Each tile is an image which has been turned into a link to some content for the students to engage with. This content can be anything you have prepared already. While there are up to six tiles, you can make the activities short so students are prepared, but not overloaded (and you do not need all 6, of course).



How to link content to graphic tiles:

[Video 1](#) - setting up the tiles on a page

[Video 2](#) - creating clickable tiles

[Video 3](#) - making this the default landing page in UTSONline

We are here to help! Contact your IML [Faculty Learning Technologist](#).