

Balanced Teaching Periods 2017: Preparing for Orientation and Week 1



In the Balanced Teaching Periods 2017, there is an Orientation period and starting this year, preparation week has been relabelled Week 1 to better communicate to students their need to participate. Scheduled classes can begin from Week 1 for preparation activities, leading into Week 2 classes for regular subject learning activities, and you may also have mandatory online Week 1 preparation activities. The dates for Orientation and Week 1 can be found [here](#). The Orientation period and Week 1 are designed to give all students resources and tools that they need to be prepared for learning in their subjects.

There are some requirements for what must be provided to students in all subjects by the start of the Orientation period and Week 1. Not all students need to *orient* to study, but **all** are required to **prepare** during week 1.

We have characterised Orientation and Week 1 support that subjects are expected to offer at 3 levels:

- Bronze:** This is the basic level of welcome activity that is expected for all subjects under BTP2017. We expect your UTSONline site to be live, and for there to be some simple, interactive elements common to all subjects here for Week 1. These basics will help students gain an overview of what to expect in your subject.
- Silver:** This level of preparation for study activity will introduce some extra quality or interactivity over the base level. We have a few suggestions of good things you could add to your basic UTSONline site to get students better prepared for a good start with your subject in Week 1, and become more engaged and interested.
- Gold:** This level will have some best-practice elements to give the students the best possible start when you begin face-to-face interaction in your first week. Do not go too far with interaction of course! It is important that students are not overloaded with preparation activities, and come keen, enthusiastic and ready for study.

We do not want to add another checklist at this busy time, but instead to provide some helpful tips on how to ensure that your Faculty response is the best possible in 2017.

We are here to help - so if you need support or advice on this topic, contact your [IML Faculty learning technologist](#) or [IML Faculty liaison contact](#) or come to a [UTSONline drop-in session](#). For more information about the new academic calendar, access Staff Connect and search for Balanced Teaching Periods 2017.