

# university preparation

## **A note about the transcripts.**

*This is a transcript of exactly what the speaker has said. It is important to realise that spoken language is different to written language. When we speak we often make grammatical errors. We also tend to repeat ourselves, and to use short words or sounds like "um", "er" or "ah". These sounds are called 'fillers' because they are used to fill in the gaps while we're thinking of what to say next. These sounds are perfectly normal in spoken English. You probably use similar fillers in your first language; however they may be different sounds. In this transcript you'll notice that the speaker has used some fillers and that in some places the sentences are not always grammatical. This is often because the speaker is thinking about what to say next, or changes her/his mind in the middle of a sentence.*

## **Transcript - Ghina**

My name is Ghina Naim. I'm 20 years old. Um. I've been in Australia for 16 months. I'm married and am studying biotechnology and cell biology.

### **Describe your first days at university**

It was hard, it was really hard for me, frustrating. I even had my husband walk me to one of my lectures. I was always late to my lectures, I, I always had problems understanding what they're talking about, my lecturers. And, um, it was hard to make friends, for example, the first at Uni, we had to all meet in this lab, and, I just went and sat next to a girl, and I just asked, started asking, asking questions like, what did that mean, and what does this mean, and then she realised that I'm not from here, and then she started asking me questions. I asked her questions and then, we just got along and started meeting for coffees, and that's it, that's how I made friends and she started helping.

### **What are some of the difficulties facing new students?**

Not knowing what, what I ask for. Not knowing what you need, and, am, not knowing how to express yourself, not finding, finding the right words to express yourself. That's what you really find hard to express yourself, using good vocab.

### **How should students communicate with lecturers?**

You should be honest with them. And they should explain to them what they're going through cos what I've, from what I've seen here, lecturers are very understanding. If you come to them and tell them, "Look, this, this is my problem", they're very understanding and they'll help you. Try to know your demonstrators. Try to know your lecturers pretty well. Cos, they're a big help for you. And if you don't know English, just get involved and into some English course, or something, it really helps you, it helps out.

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## **What are some of the differences between where you are educated and university in Australia?**

There they grab your hand, and they take it step by step. They help you. They like, feed you everything. Here you're supposed to know everything by yourself, you're supposed to find, you're the one who's supposed to find where this place is. There they show you where. There, if you don't ask, they'll come and help you, here you have to ask, you're not, you're not supposed to be shy. Um. Like, you really should stand up for yourself here more than you have to stand up there for yourself, cos there, they really want students to be, like, good at their, their studies and at Uni. Here it's up to you, if you want to study or you don't want to study. So if you want a study, you going to ask, you're not going to be shy. That's what I've learnt.

## **Describe your science classes at university**

You've got lectures and you've got pracs. The lectures, like I said, you, you go and sit and listen to your lecturer. And then you've got a prac to apply what you've, what you've heard in your lecture. And that's what you suppose, like, you go to your prac, it's about, in first year at three hours. You sit down and its, you work with your hands. You apply what you've studied. And then you've got prac exams. Where you do small, small prac exams just to check that you are always coming to your pracs and that you know what you're studying and it helps out at the end of the semester, when you have your big exam. Yeah.

## **What services do you use?**

I have used a lot the library for books and, for getting my exams, my past exams. Um. For even following, for getting my lectures off. Um, yeah, that's what I usually use just the library mainly, and probably the student office. I go there, many of times, they help with stuff you don't understand for payment, and, for what's happening with lectures, and they know, they know all about it.