

## Getting the most out of lectures

### What to do before the lecture

#### Stay informed

- Check lecturer announcements regularly in case the lecture has been cancelled, or the venue changed.
- See if the lecture notes have been uploaded. If so, read them before the lecture. You can also use them in the lecture as a starting point for your own notes.

#### Prepare yourself

- Look at how this lecture will fit with the unit outline/unit objectives.
- Ask yourself: What do I know about this topic?
- Look over your previous notes to make a connection between what you have already learnt and what this lecture will cover.
- Ask yourself: What am I hoping to find out? What will I learn? This will help you to listen for important information that is particularly relevant to your needs.
- Do any required or recommended readings and jot down any questions that you have.
- Think about how you will take notes from the lecture. Take a look at the different note taking techniques (see the *Taking Notes Quick Guide*) and plan to try the tips that might work for you. You might like to record the lecture so that you can listen to it again or work with other students to share lecture notes.
- Arrive on time so that you hear the introduction to the lecture and can collect any handouts.

### What to do after the lecture

- Try to read over your notes as soon as possible after the lecture.  
Ask yourself the following questions:
  - Do I understand what I have written?
  - Are the main idea/s and the supporting points clear?
  - Is there anything I can add to the notes? Do I need to fill in any gaps?
  - Do I need to rewrite the notes to make them easier to understand?
  - Do I need to do further reading to clarify or add to the ideas?
  - Are there questions I still need/want answered? What didn't I understand?
- You might like to discuss the lecture with friends afterwards.
- Reflect on the lecturer's purpose (see above) and presentation style and think about how this can help you to prepare to get the most out of the next lecture. Does the lecturer:
  - Give an introduction or overview of the whole lecture?
  - Use overheads or powerpoints to highlight/summarise main points?
  - Give outline/summary sheets to be used in the lecture?
  - Give information relating to the lecture or upload the lecture notes on MySCU?
  - Mention additional sources of information?
  - Give tips on studying the subject and preparing for an assessment or exam?

Check the [SCU Learning Zone](#) for more related Quick Guides.