

WHAT IS IT LIKE TO STUDY ONLINE IN UNIVERSITY?



INTRODUCTION

Hi, I'm Manan, and in this blog, I'm going to share my personal experience of studying online. Contrary to my uncertainty that online learning would be difficult, awkward, and uncomfortable, my experience was completely different. Online learning has been enjoyable in many ways. It allows a flexible working schedule and the university has been supportive and changed the structure of lessons to help us. I've been able to access all the study resources and it makes it easy for me to learn and develop new skills.

FLEXIBLE SCHEDULE

Firstly, studying from home is very easy. Most classes are fixed to be serial, allowing us to go through the material for each week according to our own schedule. This freedom has helped me to create a timetable for myself by which I can work at maximum efficiency. Library books can also still be obtained, by being reserved and collected in a given timeslot. In addition to this, the major positive condition of not having to travel to campus gives more time to witness what happens in a day.

EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION

Of course, interacting with others is important, but some of us excel in the study at home environment that I've found allows for desirable efficiency. I know I speak for many students when I say the chat option available in every Microsoft Teams call is a blessing because it allows us to express our ideas and discuss the topic confidently, without getting uncomfortable too much. Online learning encourages an expressive flow of ideas and the

development of written communication skills brought on to get your point across without taking too much time. Effective communication is key in teamwork, and it's one of the most useful skills I've received during my time with online classes. This skill will extremely be profitable for future study and in the place of work.

CREATING A PRODUCTIVE ONLINE LEARNING SPACE AT HOME

The process of online learning requires us to be dedicated and engage in self-study in order to successfully pass our syllabus. When I had to travel to campus and attend my classes, I automatically stepped into a zone where I get studying vibes. The first challenge I experienced when faced with online learning was how much self-control and dedication was required to finish work outside campus.

I get the solution by keeping in touch with my tutors, asking for support and making myself motivated to complete the tasks set by tutors for each week. These ensured my consistent engagement with the syllabus and kept me in touch with university life. I also found it useful to create a study environment at home, so I had a space just for focusing on academic tasks. During the time of online learning, I have learnt to exercise control over my daily activities to get sufficient time to study and it has now become a healthy habit.

SUPPORT FROM THE UNIVERSITY

The university have been understanding and supportive that online learning is a new experience for most of us. One of the best steps taken by my course to support us has been that they've broken down the syllabus into parts and changed ways of teaching to put up the new situation and to ensure everyone could handle the work provided. This meant that while break periods were shorter, there has been less material to digest during the semester. This has helped me to stay on track without twisting into a toxic state of work overload that would have led to burnout. This new structure allows a fewer number of syllabus to be faced each semester, giving more time to get used to studying online.

The pandemic has been the hardest situation most of us have had to face, but it brings a learning opportunity. Online learning is a new way of learning that will continue to produce many advantages. When constant support from tutors and the university joins together, it will lead to fruitful and rewarding experience.