

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

DATE: FRIDAY 15 OCTOBER 2010

ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



Summer course paves way for hassle-free study

The University of Tasmania will once again offer new students a summer course to ensure a smooth transition to university life in 2011.

UTAS College's University Preparation Program Summer School is aimed at helping adult learners starting degrees in 2011 to adjust to university life and study by ensuring they have the skills required to succeed.

There are two tiers to the program this year – the first is a computer course (Using Technology) which will be held over two weekends in December for those who need to gain or update their existing computer skills.

The computer course will cover basic computer skills with a focus on using the internet and email, as well as Microsoft Word, Excel, and Powerpoint.

The second tier is a broader three week course in January, which will focus on researching and writing essays, managing study schedules, working in a group, using the library, note taking and other skills necessary for university-level study.

The University Preparation Program is being offered at the University of Tasmania's Hobart, Launceston and Cradle Coast campuses and enrolments are open now.

UTAS College academic director, Associate Professor Anne Langworthy, said the pilot program last year had been a pleasing success.

“For those students who are returning to study and haven't been in formal education for some time, it is a real gift,” Prof. Langworthy said.

“But it does require commitment because it is an intense course. The students who took part in last year's pilot were able to achieve good results that they would not have been able to achieve had they not done the program.”

Former University Preparation Program participant and first-year Bachelor of Education student Chris Hill, of Mowbray, said attending January's pilot program had been a huge benefit to him.

“I'm 34 years old and I was scared to get back into study,” Mr Hill said.

"I was told about the course and I thought it sounded alright so I went along. It was really good. It took the rust out. It got me used to the academic lifestyle of reading and thinking outside the box again. Having the opportunity of getting used to the surroundings, not being stressed and feeling at home with the place was a huge plus.

"I would definitely recommend it to others -- especially for people who may not have been studying for a while."

The University Preparation Programme will be held on the following dates:

Part 1 (Using Technology): December 4-5 and December to 11-12.
Enrolments close Friday, November 25.

Part 2 (Study Skills, Written Communication and Information Literacy):
January 10 to January 28. Enrolments close Friday, December 16.

For University Preparation Program enrolment inquiries statewide, please contact UPP on 6324 3714.

For media inquiries about the University Preparation Program, call UTAS College academic director Anne Langworthy on 6324 3632, or UTAS communications officer Luke Scott on 6324 5019.

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