

Learning. Connected Frequently Asked Questions



LEARNING
CONNECTED

Learning.Connected at UTS College – an integrated, student-centred model of learning

What is Learning.Connected at UTS College?

The UTS College pathway and learning experience has been redesigned to inspire students to take charge of their learning and supports immersion in the learning experience. Built on evidenced-based research, this model is an interactive and wholistic approach to learning, integrating leading technology, academic rigour and best practice with embedded support, social opportunities and wellbeing resources.

With videos, simulations, discussions, quizzes, concept checks and 24/7 access to learning materials, plus active feedback from teachers and peers, students are empowered and supported to reach their potential.

Learning.Connected integrates synchronous (live) and asynchronous (independent) learning, English language enhancement, study support, social experiences, leadership and advocacy skills, and wellbeing, into a student's study plan and learning experience. All areas of student life work together seamlessly to create a unique student experience.

What are the main changes in this model of learning compared to the previous model?

Changes that can be seen in the new model of learning include:

- curriculum and pedagogy redesign (new timetable, new classes, new activities, new technology)
- redesigned shorter live sessions (Tutorial A and Tutorial B)
- creation of appropriate, personalised content
- integrated learning support, academic support and welfare support
- online and on-campus social activities
- increased student voice, advocacy and leadership opportunities
- integrated wellbeing programs backed by student analytics.

How is Learning.Connected different to the previous model of learning at UTS College?

Two additional components have been added to this model to cater for a diverse student audience and flexible modes of delivery. This learning model differs in four primary ways:

- Communication and 21st century skills are enhanced as this model incorporates best practice blended learning and focuses on building these skills in students.
- Autonomy – learning is active, not passive; students learn self-directed skills under the guidance of skilled teachers; learning is modelled on best practice blended learning for higher education, preparing students to succeed.
- Relatedness – activities and curriculum have been reimagined to inspire, engage and provide authenticity for relatedness and preparation for university and beyond.
- Support – comprehensive support and guidance is provided. Teacher presence online is consistent – teachers are reminding students of independent work, and reaching out to help students build skills in self-directed learning. The combined support from teachers, Study Success Advisers, Studiosity and TalkCampus ensure students are supported 24/7.
- *For more ways on how this model of learning differs to the previous model of learning, please see the Learning.Connected cheat sheet.

How do students learn?

Students access interactive materials within Canvas that encourage them to engage with theoretical ideas and create meaning from them – this includes short, single concept videos that extrapolate complex ideas; interactive quizzes; infographics, simulations, explanations, worksheets and reflections of learnings.

Learning.Connected places the students in control of their own learning by enabling them to engage with content – theory and information – outside of the class setting and then come to the live class to immediately apply new ideas to problems and exercises in the class setting.

Learning.Connected at UTS College – an integrated, student-centred model of learning

What are the benefits of Learning.Connected for students?

The benefits of Learning.Connected are many:

- Students are challenged to not only become critical thinkers, but imaginative problem solvers with activated minds, who can adapt and innovate to influence future work practices.
- Students grow to become better communicators and collaborators, and ultimately more prepared to be confident and active participants in the workforce and people who can demonstrate transferable skills in any situation.
- Students are immersed in a diverse and technology-enabled learning environment with access to wide variety of learning styles and options to improve learning outcomes and enhance learning for a value-added experience.
- Students gain a competitive advantage from using the latest technology and accessing valuable resources to help them reach their highest potential.
- Students can create valuable connections to support future collaborations, ideas, businesses and partnerships. Students are set up for lifelong learning by taking ownership of their journey and operating autonomously in a safe environment.
- Students learn to develop future-ready life skills such as communication, collaboration, organisation, leadership, negotiation, resourcefulness, and innovation; empowered to tackle the challenges of the future, build confidence in their abilities and develop a growth mindset.
- Accessibility and equity is improved for students, who have access to all the resources, assistance and preparation they need to succeed at UTS, with a variety of learning options to cater to individual learning styles.

What opportunities does Learning.Connected offer students?

Learning.Connected offers students the opportunity to:

- develop critical-thinking and 21st century skills to become independent and agile learners
- integrate factual and conceptual knowledge
- use multimedia materials and technology to facilitate learning
- use digital communication tools to demonstrate learning
- learn via a model that is backed by research and best practice
- improve learning outcomes and increase engagement and interaction with subjects
- enhance English language skills and proficiency
- build the skills they need for academic and future success.

How does Learning.Connected work across different time zones?

The class timetable is set to Australian Eastern Standard Time. However, live classes are mostly held no earlier than 11am, when it is best for most students in Southeast Asia, Subcontinent, and MENA, as well as Australia, to attend.

Is there a set timetable?

Yes. Generally, students have two set live tutorials (on-campus or Live Online) each week – Tutorial A (1.5 hours) and Tutorial B (1 hour), for each 6cp subject, which they must attend.

In addition, students are expected (and individually followed up) to undertake several hours of pre-class work (2.5 hours), between-class work (2.5 hours), and post-class work (2.5 hours), which may include a wide variety of learning activities, worksheets, quizzes and other forms of knowledge acquisition, as set by the course, subject and teacher.

Students are required to undertake approximately 12 hours of live and independent study each week, for each 6-credit point subject, and more for higher credit point subjects. For 12cp subjects, the total time in live tutorials is 5 hours each week, divided into 3-hour and 2-hour sessions.

Will teachers monitor students and check if they have done their pre-and- post-class work?

The course analytics and the design of the subjects gives teachers the ability to identify those students who are not doing the pre-and post-class work, and the ability to reach out to those students to work with them, in conjunction with their Study Success Advisers and the Academic Coordinators, to ensure the student stays on track and any issues that the student has are quickly addressed.

In this model of learning, teachers check that students have completed key preparatory exercises and teachers are available to answer student questions via online discussions forums and one-on-one sessions. Teachers reach out to students who are struggling or not engaging or performing well.

Thanks to the functionality of Canvas, Learning.Connected allows teachers to monitor how, when and to what degree students have engaged with materials, completed preparatory exercises and assessments, and determine which items posed difficulties and where they should focus group feedback and topic revision. We refer to this as **learner diagnostics**.

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<p>How do teachers give students feedback on class work in Canvas?</p>	<p>Teachers can provide feedback to students within Canvas in many ways, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Via padlets and discussion boards used to create meaningful class discussion between students, teachers and peers. ● Via personalised emails and messages – course analytics in Canvas provide teachers with information on the engagement level of each student. Teachers can then follow up individual students who have not completed independent work and assignments. ● Via direct messaging within Canvas – teachers’ availability and contact information is shown on each subject within Canvas, and students are able to contact teachers directly with any questions or concerns they may have. ● Within live classes – face-to-face teaching is still a valuable engagement tool, whether on campus, or Live Online, and teachers interact with each student within the live class time, answering questions and providing feedback. ● Via written and verbal feedback on assignments and assessment tasks – along with providing a grade for completed work, teachers will also provide notes and comments on where students can improve. ● Via one-to-one sessions with students to go over any concepts that the student may be having difficulty with. Students can also access their Study Success Advisers and Studiosity for additional help and support.
<p>Are communications between students and teachers personalised? Do students get personal attention and feedback?</p>	<p>Yes. As noted above, due to the comprehensive learner diagnostics available in Canvas, teachers have a complete picture of each student, including their engagement on assignments and assessment tasks, their input into class discussions, and the time they have spent on independent learning activities.</p> <p>Using these analytics, teachers can then follow up students individually to discuss their coursework, progress and address any issues they may be having, including whether additional support and assistance via Study Success Advisers or Studiosity (see below for more) is required.</p>
<p>How are the tutorials interactive?</p>	<p>Tutorials include teacher and student-led discussions, concept checks, review of pre- and post-class work, presentations and relatable activities to deepen understanding and enhance collaboration with peers and teachers.</p> <p>Students engage with teachers and peers during tutorials, studios and lab sessions, forums, presentations, and discussions.</p> <p>Students have access to a wide range of online learning resources built into course material in Canvas and designed specifically for blended learning. Materials are more detailed and interactive – supporting different styles of learning.</p> <p>Materials include videos, online quizzes, interactive simulations presentations, reports, links, digital reading materials, digital bulletin boards, podcasts, social media content, and textbooks.</p>
<p>How are different learning preferences supported?</p>	<p>Learning.Connected enables students to learn concepts in a wide variety of ways suited to their learning style. Whether via notes, readings, concept checks, videos, simulations, interactive worksheets, drawings, quizzes and more, students can engage with the materials in a way that suits them.</p>
<p>How can students stay on track and manage their time and out of class work?</p>	<p>Regular feedback and feedforward is provided to students on their pre- and post- class work; a student’s activity is reviewed and consistently monitored. Students have numerous opportunities to engage with teachers and peers online via discussion groups, formally reviewed assignments, and informal collaborations and group work.</p> <p>Students are well supported by their teachers and UTS College support services. Students are provided clear instructions, feedback and feedforward on independent work, monitoring and follow up on their progress to create successful autonomous learners.</p>
<p>Is this method of learning only for online students? Or will it also be used for face-to-face classes?</p>	<p>Learning.Connected will be used as the method of teaching and learning across all academic programs at UTS College, including UTS Foundation Studies, Diploma, Pre-Master’s and TNE programs. It has been pre-launched as the model used for the Pre-Master’s Program in 2021 and will be rolled out as the teaching model across all College diploma programs and UTS Foundation Studies in 2022. The UTS College ELT program is not within the scope of this model.</p> <p>Students will attend face-to-face classes for Tutorial A and Tutorial B (which replaces the previous lecture/tutorial format) if they are on-campus and via Live Online if they are off-campus or overseas. However, students learning Live Online will learn the same way and follow the same program in Canvas along with students on-campus.</p> <p>Learning.Connected prepares all students for learning at UTS, with high levels of support, follow up, monitoring and engagement.</p>
<p>Are the learning outcomes the same? Will my child succeed at UTS?</p>	<p>Our data already shows that students who learn Live Online are doing well. Our qualifying rates to UTS for offshore students completing our courses continues to be high (more than 90 per cent of those that complete our diplomas).</p> <p>This program is designed to work with the UTS model of learning (Learning.Futures) and prepares students for learning (and success) at UTS. Students, whether on-campus or offshore, will learn the same curriculum, in the same way, with the same expected hours, via Canvas.</p> <p>Learning.Connected ensures that all students learn equitably and have access to the same resources and learning opportunities, whether in Australia, or overseas.</p>

Support for Learning.Connected at UTS College

<p>What support do students receive while learning independently?</p>	<p>Canvas diagnostics enable improved early monitoring of students' academic performance, leading to faster intervention by teachers and academic coordinators, and better student outcomes. Access to all support services at UTS College, including Study Success Advisers, TalkCampus and Studiosity, is enhanced by online availability and booking via Canvas.</p>
<p>What academic support do students receive at UTS College?</p>	<p>All students have access to Study Success Advisers (SSAs), who counsel and support students in their academic and welfare needs. SSAs are available on campus and online, at staggered times for improved access. Appointments are easily booked via Canvas. Increased access to SSAs improves support and supports better student performance.</p>
<p>What online study support do students receive at UTS College?</p>	<p>Studiosity anytime anywhere numeracy, literacy and study support and assistance is also available online 24/7. Feedback on writing assignments is provided to students within 24 hours and the live chat function with tutors is available 24/7 from anywhere in the world. These support services are built into the Canvas model and are easily accessible by students wherever they are located.</p>
<p>What welfare and mental health support do students receive at UTS College in this model?</p>	<p>Students have access to peer mentoring in-class and via TalkCampus, an online app providing peer support services, backed by psychologists. Access to UTS medical and counselling services is available for domestic students via UTS Student Services and via Medibank Services for offshore (international) students. The model offers improved access to health and wellbeing services in person, or online, in a format that student prefer, and enhanced academic and mental health and wellness support for all students.</p>
<p>What tech support will students receive if they have trouble accessing online resources and videos?</p>	<p>For online resources and videos in Canvas, students can reach out for help on Canvas support in the first instance (found in the Canvas account). For content specifically in Canvas, teachers and Academic Coordinators will assist with any access issues. Content creators also use China-approved video tools like QQ Video, so that students in China can access them without a VPN.</p> <p>If it's an account access issue, a student's first point of contact is the ITDS Service Desk team on +61 02 9218 7000. This is specifically for Canvas access issues.</p> <p>For internet or hardware issues, a digital toolkit is available for students to refer to, to ensure their device/internet speeds meet the minimum requirements. If they do meet requirements, but experience further issues, IT Service Desk support is available.</p>

Social opportunities within Learning.Connected

<p>What social clubs can students join online?</p>	<p>On-campus and online social clubs at UTS College are accessible via Canvas and include a wide variety of student-led and teacher-led clubs covering students' interests including movies, craft, gaming, cars, yoga, drama, cooking and much more.</p>
<p>What social events and activities do students have access to?</p>	<p>New online social clubs and activities as well as on-campus clubs and events are available for all students, and are promoted through Canvas. Students can also access ActivateUTS, which offers 130 clubs and societies and hundreds of events each year.</p>