

Why first-year matters



Creating a sense of belonging

“Arriving in a new country is an exciting time but it also involves navigating complexities such as finding accommodation, managing the cost of living, making banking arrangements and putting in place suitable health cover,” said Ms Susan Sherringham, Program Manager – UTS Foundation Studies, UTS Insearch.

She highlighted the importance of engaging in Orientation and preparation activities on arrival. It is for this reason attendance at Orientation is now compulsory at UTS Insearch.

“Students who participate in the events that are run during Orientation Week and Preparation Week are ahead of other students. The activities during these two weeks introduce students to their teachers and to the curriculum and learning expectations in a relaxed, supportive environment before classes formally commence.” said Ms Sherringham.



While university is a time for studying, it is also an opportunity to build new networks, friendships and have fun. As part of a university experience, students can join social clubs, events and sporting activities where they can meet people with similar interests.



Feeling supported

Higher education providers, such as UTS Insearch, are mindful of supporting students’ health, safety and well-being. This includes offering peer tutors for support in class, access to weekly one-on-one learning support sessions, academic advisers and counsellors to discuss progress and future study plans, or counsellors to assist with personal difficulties such as stress, time management or financial issues. There are ‘early intervention’ programs, which quickly identifies students who may need extra assistance in core skills, and can be pro-actively offered personalised learning support.

Intellectual engagement

To ensure students get the most from their studies and are intellectually engaged, UTS Insearch has developed a targeted Model of Learning that is well-suited to those transitioning from high school internationally. Classes are small, student-centred, and taught with contemporary facilities and technology.



“We offer extra learning support to help make complex concepts more manageable. Students learn how to think creatively and critically, problem solve, collaborate and communicate effectively with others. This foundation in lateral thinking, core knowledge and skills, equips students as independent learners to succeed at university and beyond, in professional and leadership roles,” said Ms Sherringham.