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DIRECTED INDEPENDENT LEARNING (DIL): RESOURCES for STUDENTS

Tools and resources to support the development of DIL

What is directed independent learning (DIL)?

DIL is an approach to teaching and learning that ‘places increased responsibility on students when compared to the forms of learning they are most likely to have undertaken prior to entering university. But students should be engaged, enabled, facilitated and supported by staff through relevant and guided opportunities, suitable [teaching methods], and an appropriate learning environment’ (Thomas 2015, pages 7 – 8). In other words, students are expected to learn how to independently analyse problems, seek out sources of reliable information and find solutions, provide rationales for their answers etc without being told how to do everything by a tutor. It involves ‘learning how to learn’ in a different way, and prepares students to be resourceful, creative and autonomous individuals throughout their lives, not just in their studies. As with any new approach, it helps to have some guidance, however, hence the ‘directed’ approach.

If you want to know more about DIL, its benefits and challenges, and the forms that support and direction can take, have a look at the ‘Overview of DIL’ resource. Although written for staff, the information provided is also of relevance to students.

Thomas, Liz (Ed) (2015). *Compendium of effective practice in directed independent learning*. QAA and Higher Education Academy. heacademy.ac.uk/knowledge-hub/effective-practice-design-directed-independent-learning-opportunities (accessed April 2018)

What to expect at university

A series of short videos with student 'talking heads' giving advice on how HE differs from school, and how to cope

nottingham.ac.uk/studyingeffectively/studying/independent.aspx

Preparing for university study

Skills4Uni interactive student self-access mini-course skills4uni.bham.ac.uk/

If you are joining a part-time or course with other non-traditional modes of study: Flexible learning guide for students heacademy.ac.uk/knowledge-hub/flexible-learning-practical-introduction-students

[Induction and transition work and resources at Swansea](#)

Support for your studies while you are university

MyUniHub – a goldmine of information and useful stuff myuni.swan.ac.uk/

[Swansea peer mentoring toolkit](#)

[Swansea info on academic mentoring](#)

[Swansea study space information](#)

[Swansea IT information](#)

[Staff guidance on online learning](#)

[Swansea Library information and guidance for students](#)

AMOSSHE [resilience toolkit](#) for use with students covering emotional balance, self-management and social integration

Developing your academic and study skills

[Swansea Academic Success programme](#) (includes a number of study skills and 'learning how to learn' workshops) swansea.ac.uk/asp/

Bb Online course for students: *Academic Success: Skills for Learning, Skills for Life*

[iTest](#) (self-assessment of your 'digital literacy level')

wip.exeter.ac.uk/collaborate/itest/

Descriptors of novice, intermediate and expert scholars' abilities for six dimensions of information and digital literacy are available in the [Information and Digital Literacy Framework](#) Sheffield University document and interactively at: sheffield.ac.uk/library/idlt

Understanding research-informed teaching and learning

The table on the next page summarises the different modes of research informed teaching that you are likely to experience at university.

Enquiry-based learning – the student perspective

