

# A NEW CAMPUS: A NEW LEARNING EXPERIENCE FOR STUDENTS

Welcome to the new state-of-the-art campus in the heart of Knowledge Park. As well as being a modern and attractive building, the new campus provides the exciting opportunity to find new ways to engage in active learning.

## WHAT TO EXPECT AT THE NEW CAMPUS?

The campus offers enhanced learning facilities that include:

- Digitally-enabled classrooms.
- Bright and modern seminar rooms.
- 13 different types of studios and laboratories, including a Maths Gym and Robotics Lab. Even if you are not an engineer or a computer scientist, you are welcome to drop by to take a look at the range of work and study underway.
- A Business and Enterprise Hub where students across all Schools can engage with business and industry.
- A spacious library where you will find dedicated librarians and Effective-Learning Advisors to support your studies and a host of study spaces.

In addition, there is a dedicated Student Hub, Town Hall Café and Cafeteria where you can socialise with friends. There are also 954 square metres of social learning spaces spread throughout the University. These include bookable meeting rooms and study pods for when you need to work as a team or need space for independent work and quiet study. There are also cosy booths where you can settle down, make yourself comfortable and work on your latest activity or assignment.



## ACTIVE LEARNING

### What is active learning?

Active learning is when you participate in meaningful activities, think about those activities, and apply knowledge to new contexts to help you gain a deeper understanding of your subject. This contrasts with passive learning where you sit and simply listen or watch a lecture / recording.

### Interactive classes

The new classrooms are setup to encourage more interaction between students. This might be in the form of a debate, working together to solve problems or other active engagement in your live classes. The balance of activities will vary between classes. You may be asked to prepare for the class in advance or may just review your notes from previous sessions to help you prepare.

### Guided Study

Outside of live sessions, you might be asked to watch a video, read an article or undertake some other guided study. Try to complete the activity before your class because it will enable you to participate effectively in class activities. This in turn will help your own learning and contribute to the shared learning experience with your peers.

### Class Activities

You may be asked to work on an activity during a live session or outside the class. Make sure you fully participate and be prepared to report back at the end of the activity. Reflect on what the activity has taught you.

## COMBINING DIRECTED AND INDEPENDENT LEARNING

It can be helpful to use the live (online or on-campus) sessions as a focal point of study and then consider what you need to do to make the most of the rest of your study time:

### 1. Before a live teaching session

Schedule enough time before a live session to review study material and take notes. Look for directions to help you with preparation for the live session:

- What material/activity should I review before the live session?
- Has the lecturer given me specific points to look out for while I watch / listen / read / participate?
- Has the lecturer asked me to answer specific questions related to the material?
- Have I been asked to share answers or examples in a specific place such as a discussion board, a shared document or in Microsoft Teams?

Preparation before a session familiarises you with the topic and contributes to your wider understanding of the course.

### 2. During a live teaching session

During a live session it is likely that your lecturer will have activities for you to do to help consolidate and extend your learning. These activities will be easier if you have done the preparation before the session.

What might you experience in a live session?

- Asking or answering questions.
- Discussing or analysing a topic or issue.
- Presenting or listening to presentations by other students.
- Answering quiz questions.
- Working with other students in groups – for example, this might be to discuss a topic, to collaboratively produce an output or solve a problem.

Many of the new classrooms have easily movable tables and chairs that make it easy to work in groups. Other classrooms have group tables and wall-mounted screens where you can work together to answer questions or problem-solve.



### 3. After a live teaching session

After a live session, take time to consolidate and reflect on your learning. Review the material, and check that your notes capture the key aspects of the class then continue any other directed or independent study.

There are lots of great spaces throughout the campus where you can work. Some areas are better suited to quiet study spaces, others are better if you like working surrounded by a dynamic buzz of activity. Please explore all seven floors and find the place that works for you.

For one-to-one advice on study skills visit the Effective Learning Service situated in the Library on the first floor. For more information on how to develop your study skills, please visit:

<https://www.hw.ac.uk/uk/students/new-students/dubai/develop-your-skills.htm>



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