



Before Semester Starts

Getting off to a good start

Getting off to a good start is very important; first impressions can make a big difference to how readily your students engage with your course. When you begin teaching, think about how you will create a classroom environment conducive to learning, develop a rapport with your students, build trust and respect, and clarify your expectations.

Video series - Tips for Before Semester Starts

In these 9 videos, teachers offer useful comments and tips on getting started, setting ground rules and boundaries, staying in touch, building respect and trust in the classroom, and engaging students in learning.

Well before the start of Semester, begin planning your course by considering the following:

- What do I want my students to learn?
(see **Constructing Learning Objectives**)
- How will my course be structured so they learn these things?
(see UNSW **Course Outline Template**)
- How do I want my students to learn?
(see **Teaching Approaches and Strategies**)
- Which technologies do I want to incorporate into my course?
(see **eLearning - TELT**)
- How will I tell whether my students achieved the course learning outcomes?
(see UNSW **Assessment as Learning Toolkit**)

Checklists

The following checklists will help you in the planning stages of your teaching:

- **Roles and Responsibilities**
- **Housekeeping**
- **Before the First Day**
- **The First Day**
- **Assessment**

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Document Version Date 29/11/2016

UNSW CRICOS Provider Code: 00098G

<https://teaching.unsw.edu.au/semester-starts>