

Welcome

This session is being recorded for those who are unable to attend to view. Your microphone and camera settings upon entering this Zoom room have been automatically turned off. Please turn your camera on if you are happy to be filmed. To help keep background noise to a minimum, make sure you turn off your microphone when you are not speaking. The chat content will be monitored during the session and we may use comments made to inform our CL Q&A resources. Transcripts of the session will be available upon request.

The Skills Centre

Develop your academic writing
and study skills



What our students say about us:

“Continue to do the fantastic work you do. I would have not got through my first year at uni without your support.”

“It’s more accessible now it has been all moved online.”

“The session was very informative relaxed and inclusive”

“As a distance learner this is how I regularly receive support and the skills centre are such an amazing source for information and support.”

Who we are...

- Part of Library Services
- Learning Advisors and Specialist Advisors who support students develop their academic and study skills
- Online service accessed via the Skills Centre website and Blackboard - online / by telephone
- Advisers are available Mon-Friday (Tues-Thurs until 7pm). Online resources available at all times.

Who can use the Skills Centre?

All students!

We provide information, advice and guidance on academic writing and study skills for students at **all levels:**

- Foundation
- Undergraduate
- Postgraduate (MA, MSc)
- PhD

...on all courses.



What we offer:

Study Skills Webinars



**1-1 appointments
(online or over the 'phone)**



Online Writing forums



[Online Writing Gym](#)



What we offer (continued)

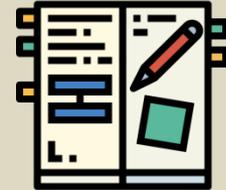
Writing Cafe – Snack and Scribble



Virtual Drop-In



Online resources



Studiosity – writing feedback

Studiosity

Webinars

1 hour taught sessions for up to 12 students including small group activities, discussions, and opportunities for questions

Effective study skills

- Academic reading strategies
- Effective notetaking
- Presentation skills
- Time management
- Exam and revision strategy

Writing skills

- Academic Writing
- Critical Writing
- Reflective Writing
- Planning and Structuring
- Editing and Proofreading

Research skills

- Literature reviews
- Planning your research
- Writing up your research

Student feedback on webinars

“The lady who ran the course was very patient and encouraging.”

“I’m finding it much better, being able to access online sessions while juggling work is far easier than travelling to attend sessions in person”

“Webinars are great as it gives an opportunity to ask questions”

1-1 appointments

- Best if you prefer a 1:1 format or want a session tailored to your specific needs.
- 30 minute sessions with an Academic Learning Advisor.
- Offered over the phone or online via video call.
- Work with an advisor on a range of academic skills topics: for example, to focus on a section of your draft assignment or to plan and manage your workload.

Student feedback on 1:1s

“I am very grateful for the support I was given today. The adviser was so friendly and showed genuine interest in my work. She had a quick read of my work previous to our chat and gave me some really useful feedback. She also answered all the questions I needed. This was a great opportunity. Thank you for providing this. The confidence boost was certainly needed.”

More Student feedback on 1:1s

“We are still able to book appointments and speak to staff through online chat rooms or a phone call, we could both have up on our computers the thing we’d be editing or working through. It works well as it is all in real time.”

Writing forums

- Small groups online - maximum of 3 participants.
- Students share and discuss their work and give and receive feedback to peers, facilitated by an Academic Learning Advisor.
- Aim to develop and apply new writing strategies.
- Book as a group to discuss an assignment from your course.

Writing Gym



- Our [Writing Gym](#) has been created to help support Level 7 students through the dissertation process by providing a space for you to learn new approaches to writing, share ideas with others, and crucially do some writing!
- Each session is 90 minutes and will involve a mix of tuition, goal setting, writing and sharing experience.

Virtual Drop-ins

Our Virtual Drop-ins are a successful collaboration between the Skills Team, Learning and Teaching Team, Digital Skills team and Maths and Stats tutors – every Wednesday evening staff are available to answer quick questions

<https://blogs.shu.ac.uk/skillscentre/2020/09/28/virtual-drop-ins-bring-your-quick-questions-about-your-studies/>

Virtual Drop-ins

“I found the drop in very useful. It was great to be able to ask questions, and be quite specific. It was useful to check references with the librarian. She advised me how to find difficult sources. I also found it helpful to receive feedback on my essay and writing style. This helped me target the criteria and ensure I was integrating thoroughly.” (Anon, 2020)

Snack & Scribble

A new writing intervention:

To provide a regular touchpoint for students to meet online and write-creative, fun, to encourage writing flow, self-efficacy, self-belief, belonging.

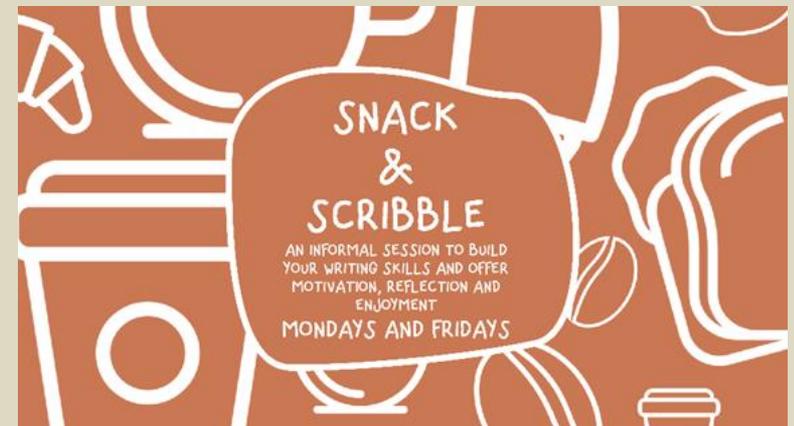
The aim is to provide a writing stimulus and motivation to keep engaged.

Early days- it takes a while for the word to get out about our offers.

Many students have already gone home. We know mental health issues, struggling with online learning an issue.

How can students book:

<https://libguides.shu.ac.uk/skillscentre/events>



Snack and Scribble

Michele Lockwood-Edwards
Mathew Hare
Skills Centre



Session Outline

- We'll give you a writing stimulus and a timed period to write.
- Some activities will build from smaller staged activities.
- Other activities may take 15 minutes and give you longer to write.
- We want you to find ways into writing and pleasure in the process.
- There's no pressure to share your writing or pressure to speak, although this would be great!

KVETCH

moan complain carp
groan whinge whine
grumble lament bleat wail
gripe bemoan blame

Two minutes



- Have a good moan.
- What's getting on your nerves at the moment?

Words of the Year 2020-three minutes

Oxford English Dictionary words for 2020



LOCKDOWN

<https://languages.oup.com/word-of-the-year/2020/>

- Choose one of your own words for 2020 and write for three minutes on it.
- Don't read back or edit, just keep going.

Stream of consciousness-two minutes



When you don't feel like writing what's running through your head....?

Write your stream of consciousness.

Getting started –two minutes



Write a stream of thoughts to help you start writing when you are not in the mood.

Be kind and self-compassionate.

Inspiration from Chinese Proverbs:



*Experience is a comb which nature gives us
when we are bald.*

Chinese Proverb

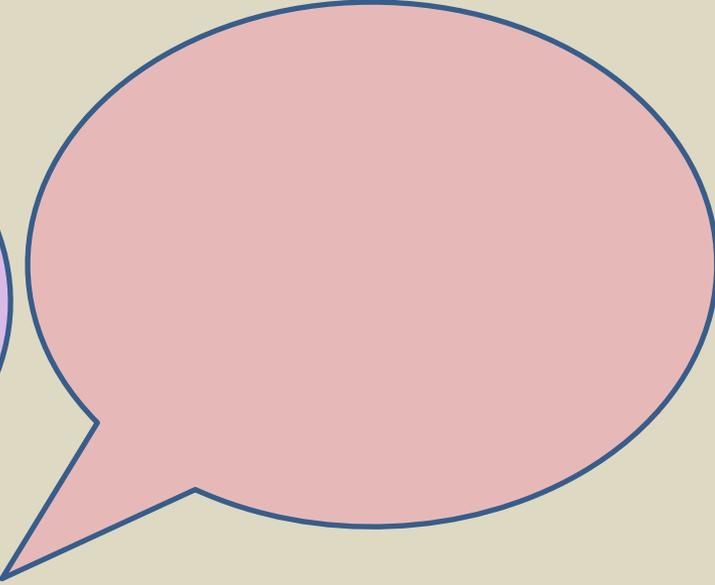
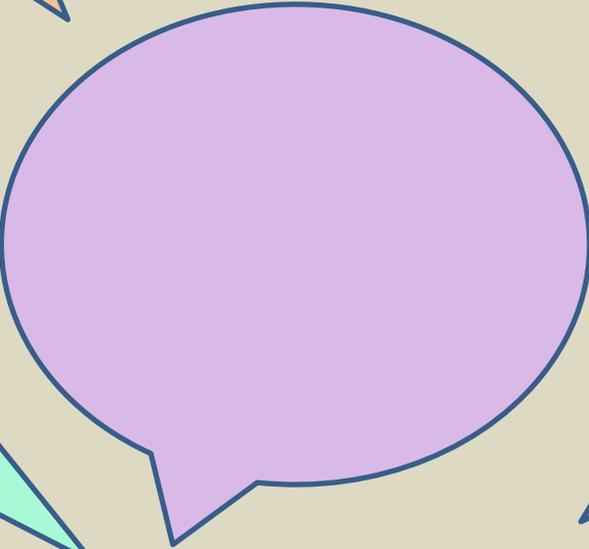
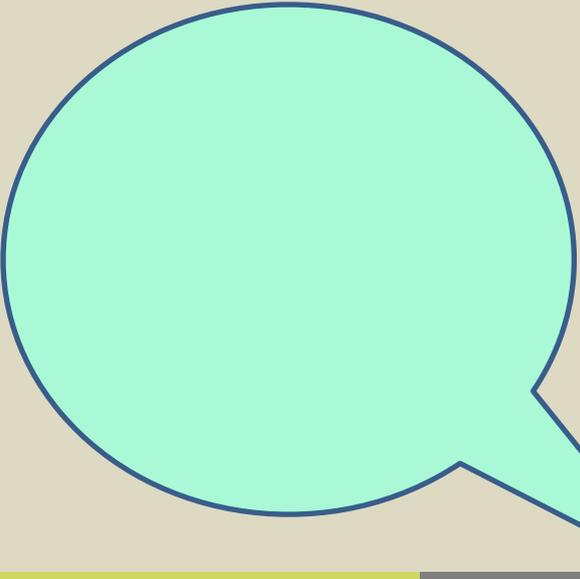
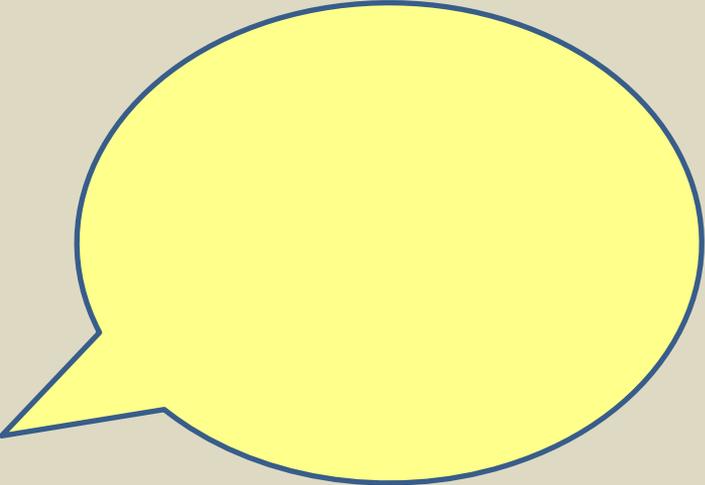


Finally- three minutes

Your proverb

Can you make up a proverb to impart a snippet of your life philosophy?

Does anyone want to share anything?





Thanks for taking part.

Michele

Online resources:

RESOURCES

Follow the headings to find resources to help you develop your academic, personal and professional skills. If you don't find what you are looking for, please **let us know**.



Essential Study Skills

- Getting started at university
- Time management
- Effective notetaking
- Effective reading
- Referencing
- Editing and proofreading
- Exam revision and strategy
- Group work and study groups
- Assistive technology



Academic Writing

- Introduction to academic writing
- Planning and structuring assignments
- Critical writing
- Reflective writing
- Report writing
- Presentation skills
- Scientific writing



Reading and Research

- Searching for sources
- Literature reviews
- Dissertations and research projects
- Designing research posters

Studiosity – online writing feedback service

- Upload up to 2000 words of your work
- Receive written feedback within 72 hours
- Feedback is not subject specific
- Use the service to develop your academic writing style, structure and attention to grammar.

The logo for Studiosity is contained within a light blue rectangular box with a black border. The word "Studiosity" is written in a bold, dark grey sans-serif font. A yellow diagonal line with a dot at its end is positioned above the 'i' in "Studiosity".

Studiosity

Impact:

- **95%** of workshop attendees say their **confidence in the topic increased** after attending a session.
- **97%** of students said the **sessions were relevant** to their studies.

I will now efficiently organise my time for reading research materials using the tips and tools provided in the workshop.

I am now able to identify when I have written critically and used this to improve my literature review immediately after the session.

Assistive Technology

Support and workshops on using Assistive Technology and software, via the [‘Apps Anywhere’ shortcut](#)



- **Mindview:** Mindmapping software
- **Office 365:** Learning tools for reading and research
- **Audio Notetaker & Glean:** Allows you to capture audio, text and slides in one place

Check out the Assistive Technology [webpages](#).

Maths and Statistics Support

Individual Support with:

- Mathematical content of courses
- Using statistical software (e.g. SPSS)

Online resources including:

- Maths and stats help-sheets
- Guides to using statistical software

For more information, booking and online resources, visit:
<https://maths.shu.ac.uk/mathshelp/>



Summary of core offer



Get in touch

You can view our schedule and book sessions via our website:

blogs.shu.ac.uk/skillscentre

Other ways to keep in touch or ask questions:

Email: skillscentre@shu.ac.uk

Twitter: @HallamSkills



Additional services



University English Scheme

Resources and workshops to improve your academic English (for international students)



Disabled Student Support

For help with any disability related enquiry



Student Wellbeing

For confidential help with psychological wellbeing