# **May/June 2021 at the Skills Centre**

At this point in the year as many students have got exams and assessments the Skills Centre is providing advice, information, and support for students on this topic so please signpost students who could benefit:

* See our blog with tips for success in on-line exams <https://blogs.shu.ac.uk/skillscentre/blog-posts/>
* We have also just refreshed the information about online exams page on our exams and revision study guide: <https://libguides.shu.ac.uk/exams/online-exams>
* We are offering extra webinars on ‘Exams & Revision’ and ‘Writing up Your Research’ to support those final improvements to dissertations. See [our schedule](https://blogs.shu.ac.uk/skillscentre/events/events-listings/?doing_wp_cron=1620217674.9296140670776367187500) of webinars for dates and times.

## Sessions for Students

The Skills Centre is open all through the summer offering a selection of webinars, small group sessions, drop-in and 1-1s for students whose courses are still in progress and to support students completing resits or resubmissions. This link takes you to our [calendar of events](https://blogs.shu.ac.uk/skillscentre/events-calendar-view/?doing_wp_cron=1621332155.6711390018463134765625) which is updated every 2 weeks. In addition, students can use this link to access our comprehensive [library of recorded webinars](http://bit.ly/recorded-sessions) to watch at their convenience.

The [Studiosity](https://libguides.shu.ac.uk/skills/feedback) writing feedback service is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week all through the summer and the student allocation of hours for use in this service will re-set on 1st August 2021. The Studiosity peer support [Student Connect project](https://libguides.shu.ac.uk/skills/connect) – is being evaluated now via focus groups of students who have used the service, and the student mentors to better understand their experience and inform future development. We are hoping to extend the pilot into next year, but this is to be confirmed. If we do, then we will be recruiting additional student mentors.

### Virtual drop ins

Will continue to run over the summer but with a slightly reduced staffing – one staff member each from Skills, Library Learning and Teaching, Digital Skills, and Maths & Stats. Students can join the drop in on Wednesdays between 4-6pm using this link: [Library Drop in](https://unihub.shu.ac.uk/students/events/search?query=&EventType=191)

### Small Group Sessions for Students (Writing Forums)

We are developing our small group sessions for students with a plan to launch sessions which focus on different types of writing including reflective writing and critical writing. We are interested in the possibility of offering sessions by college or subject area and would welcome any ideas or input from academic staff about how this could work. Please contact Jayne Evans if you want to get involved. We will also be consulting students to get their input.

### Writing Gym

Our summer Writing Gym is now ready for students to book. The Writing Gym supports Postgraduate Taught (Level 7) students through the dissertation writing process, by providing an online space for students to learn new approaches to writing, share ideas with others, and crucially do some writing! Each session is 90 minutes and involves a mix of tuition, goal setting, writing, and sharing experience. Two Academic Skills advisors facilitate each session, and students are expected to come prepared to participate and join a community of fellow writers.

* Monday 28th June – Let’s get critical.
* Monday 5th July – Light up your literature review.
* Monday 12th July – Meet your methodology.
* Monday 19th July – Fit findings.
* Monday 26th July – Deconstructing discussions.

Students can book via our [Writing Gym study guide](https://libguides.shu.ac.uk/writing-gym) or in Unihub.

### Feedback Highlights

We were very happy to receive the following comments from students who have used the service during April and May 2021:

“Study Skills online has been the best for ever since I started using it, I have never had a resubmission on my assignments, and I wish students to take advantage of it there are very talented skilled professionals and are very helpful and always goes an extra mile for you to understand” - Anonymous student.

“I just wanted to let you know that I received 82% in my dissertation, and I wanted to say thank you for taking the time to look over this for me.…Would [you] kindly pass my thanks on to the Skills Centre Team. The progression in my grades from my first year to now is quite something, and that progression wouldn't have been possible without the fantastic courses provided by the Skills Centre.”  - Final year BSc Environmental Science Student

“I would just like to provide some feedback on your service. I have made use of many of your services such as writing forums, webinars and 1-1 tutorials throughout studying at SHU, and I would just like to say a big thank you to all your staff … for helping me develop my writing skills. Your service is a credit to SHU students, and I recommend all students to take up sessions at The Skills Centre to boost their writing competence. You are a hard-working team who have made studying at SHU worthwhile.” - Final year BA (Hons) Primary Education with QTS student

## Contact us

If you want to request a session for your students on any aspect of academic study skills or a presentation on student Connect for your team, please email us: Skillscentre@shu.ac.uk.

To view our full offer please go to our LibGuide: ttps://libguides.shu.ac.uk/skills/home