# First Year at University by Kate Swinton [Video Transcript]

First Year at University - When beginning your first year at university, you might feel a bit unsure about what your lecturers will expect from your written work.

Firstly, read your module guides. These are found on NILE; NILE contains all of your module information, including all the assignments you are expected to complete over the next academic year. Have a look at the assignment grade criteria- it will give you a clearer idea of what is expected of you.

Time management is crucial. You will see, that each module has set work and possibly that the hand in dates are fairly close together. You need to plan your time carefully, taking in to consideration set work, lectures and seminars, as well as any reading you need to do for these.

For your assignments, it is important to take time to analyse the question you have been set. Think about the focus, the topic and any action words.

For each assignment, from presentations to essay questions, you will need to do research. Gathering information is a skill you will develop throughout your university time; it is an essential skill. It helps develop your understanding and increases the depth that your assignment conveys.

You need to begin to think critically. Rather than just giving us the information and relaying it in your work, think about the significance, evaluate the strengths and weaknesses, show the relevance of links between pieces of information. And identify clearly both sides of an argument.

You need to make sure you reference, using the course’s referencing scheme. Referencing guides can be downloaded from the Skills Hub or the Library webpages. Make sure you read the guides, they give clear guidelines and examples of how to reference correctly. Remember to check it is the right referencing scheme for your module before downloading.

Allow plenty of time to edit your work and check your grammar before submitting.