

MANCHESTER
1824

The University of Manchester

From pupil to student: making a success of independent study

Dr Alyssa Phillips & Rosie Jones



10 min sample student icebreaker activity:

Create a collage of your group
impression of Manchester or the
Manchester student experience

Use materials from boxes on the right
hand side of the room, suggest one
member of your group collects the
materials while the others discuss
the image you wish to create

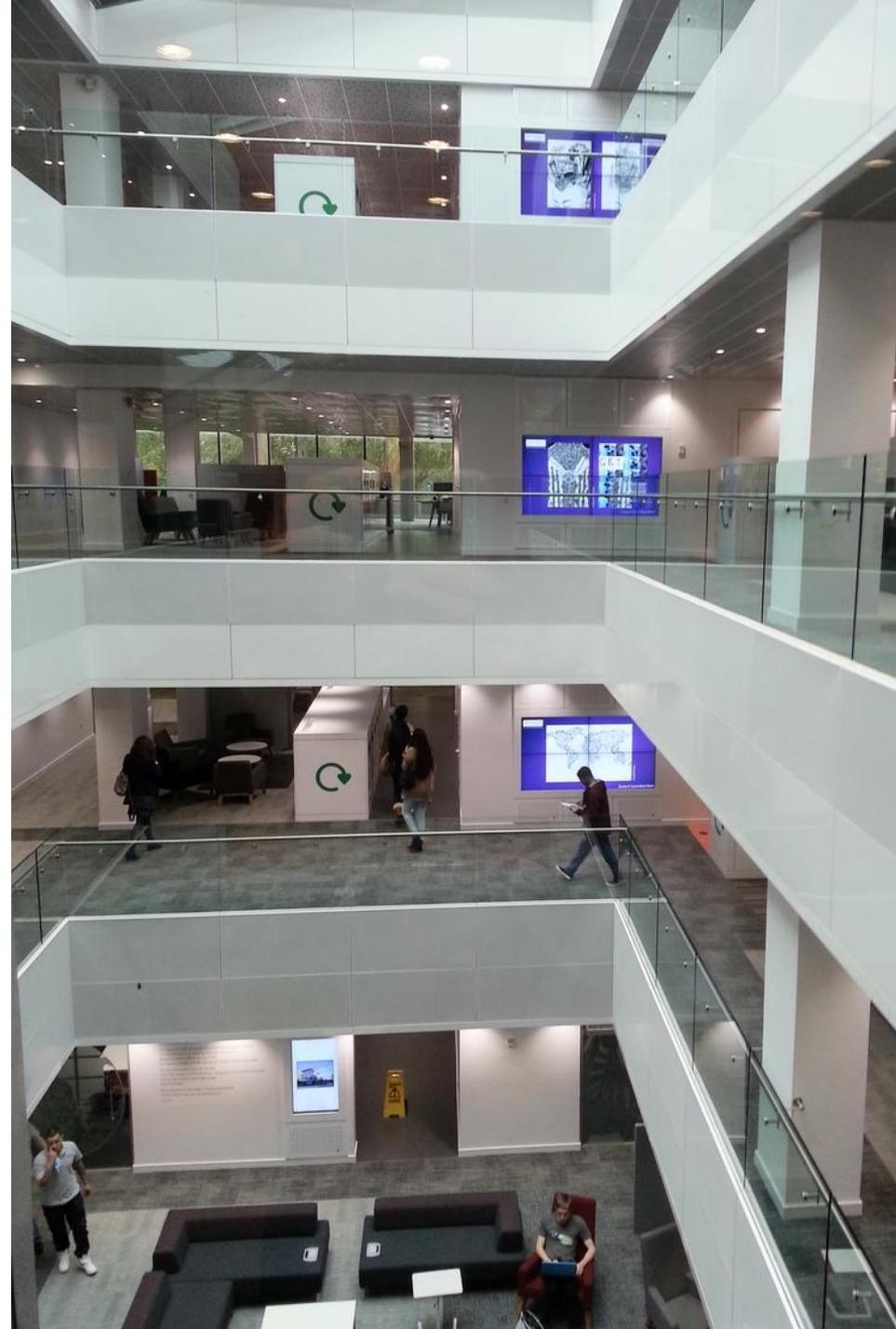
Overview

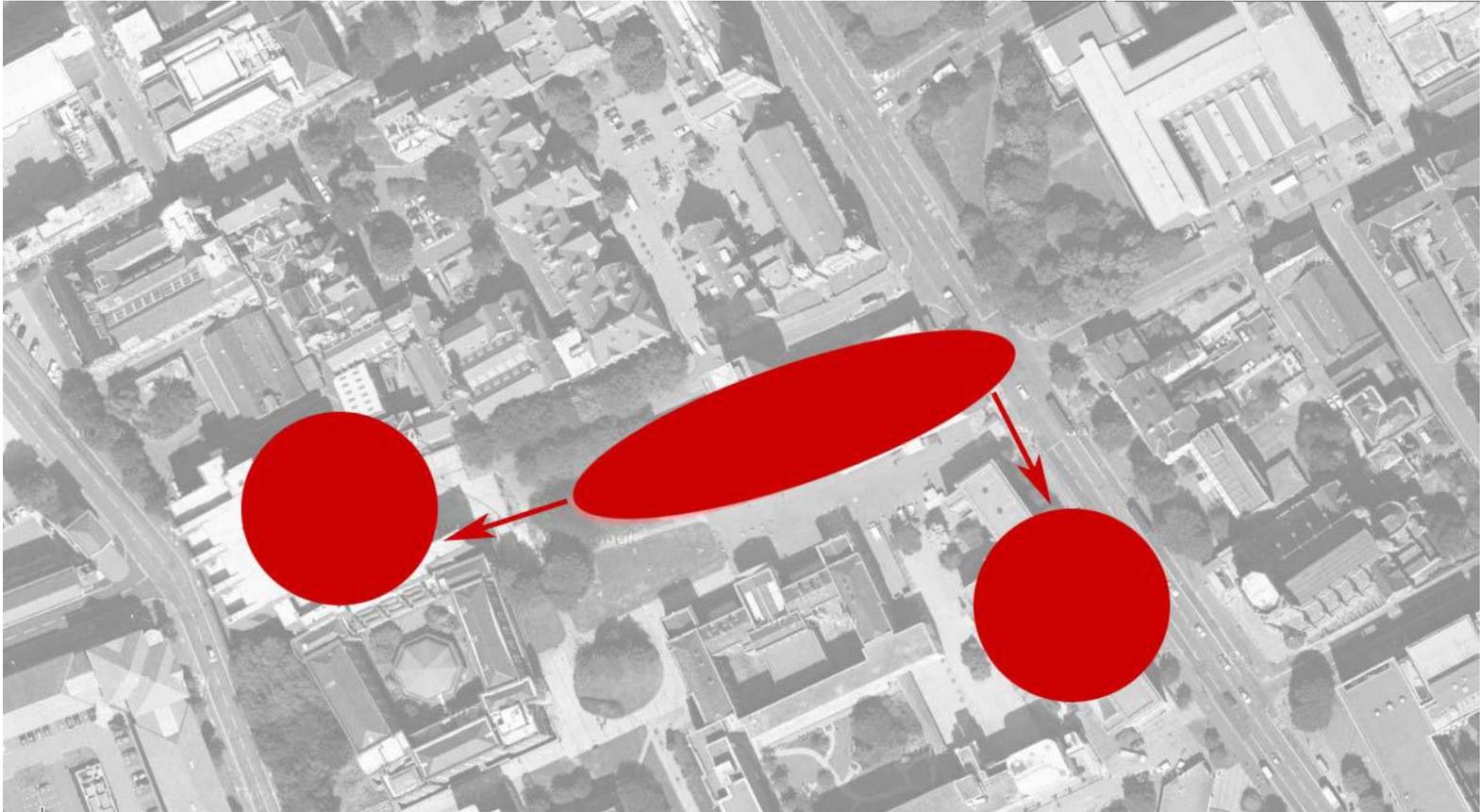
- The AGLC
- Independent learning
- Practical study skills
- Resources you can use
- Tour



Encouraging learning

- Infrastructure
- Furniture
- Inspiration
- Training room





...students have easy access to and from the Library and Student's Union.....

Putting the Learning into the Learning Commons



- Unique training programme
- Open learning materials
- Cross discipline
- Collaboration and partnerships

“The purpose of a University education is such that you gradually become more self-directed and independent learners; that you take charge of your own education. The staff will be here to help you in this transition, which will be occurring gradually over your period of studies.”

Professor Dame Nancy Rothwell.



Key Features of Independent Learning

Motivation : Independent learners are motivated to learn. They accept responsibility for their own learning and have the confidence to approach others for help if they need it.

Management of the learning process: Independent learners are capable of managing the learning processes effectively, including:

- *identifying learning objectives*
- *selecting and using appropriate methods and techniques*
- *managing time, stress, other commitments and the process of change*
- *using a wide range of learning opportunities and resources (including educators)*
- *adapting the learning process to make use of new opportunities*

Reflection: Independent learners are able to monitor and reflect critically on how and what they learn. Through this they develop an awareness that helps them to learn with increasing effectiveness. They also demonstrate a more questioning attitude to what they are learning.

Source: Allan et al (1996) Allan B, Cook M & Lewis R (1996) The Independent Learner: Developing Independence in Learning, University of Humberside.



Lab Work



Lectures

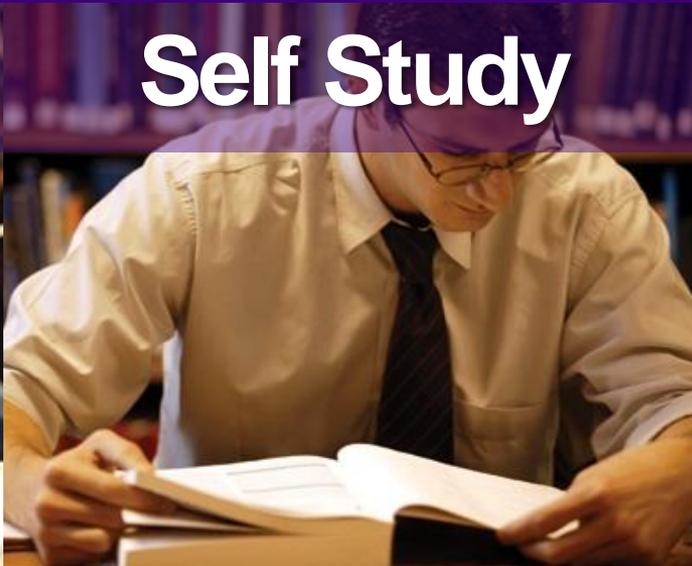


Seminars

Study Methods



Tutorials



Self Study



Workshops

Private Study

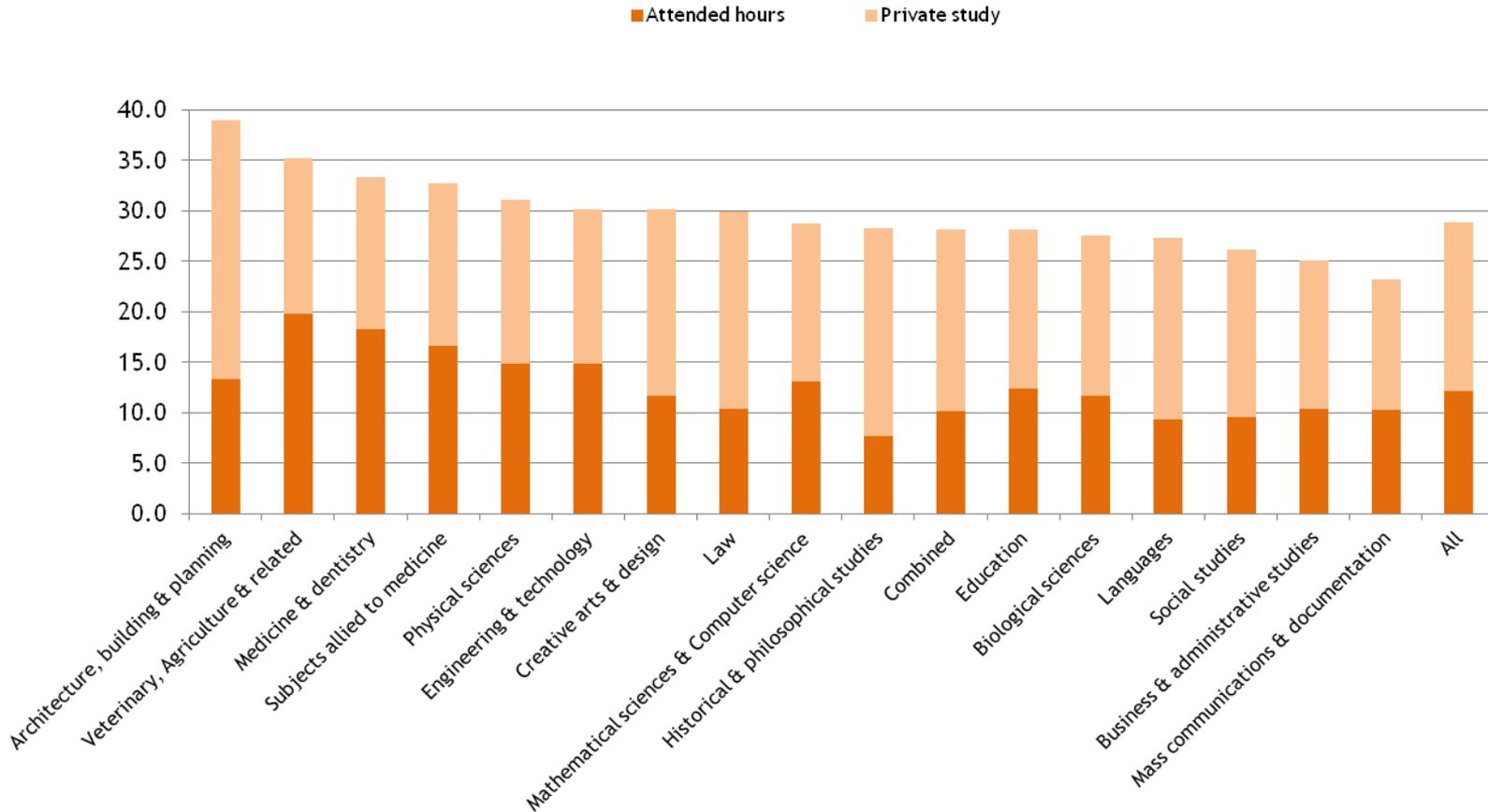
Required in addition to contact hours (lectures, seminars, tutorials, lab work etc.)

Involves researching resources, reading, preparation of notes etc.

Time management, planning, motivation important

How much? As a guide, 35-40 working week including contact hours

Total study by subject (private study + attended hours): All HEIs



The academic experience of students in English universities: 2013 report, by the Higher Education Policy Institute and consumer group Which?

Sources Support at University

Lecturers, tutors, course convenors

Academic Adviser

Programme Director

AGLC and Library staff

Careers Service

Disability Support Office

Counselling Service

Student Union Advice Centre

Other students/mentors/PASS leaders

Options, not answers

- Focus on process of learning, not end result
- Where do I go from here?

Open training programme overview

Learning Styles

Presentation Skills

Academic Writing

Myers Brigs

Interview Skills

Careers in ...

...



Academic Skills: Learning Styles

www.library.manchester.ac.uk/courses/course/?id=349

Added by [jennieblake](#) 3 weeks ago



jennieblake: This workshop is designed and presented by the Learning Commons team and will focus on helping students to understand their own learning styles, best ways of learning and study and revision skills. Students will be encouraged to design their own strategies to make note-taking, revision and assessment more successful.

3 weeks ago



jennieblake: This workshop will especially help students who want to learn new strategies to get the most out of their courses.

2 weeks ago



jennieblake: The first workshop for Learning Styles is nearly full! If you are interested, definitely try booking on the second one first!

6 days ago

Practical Study Skills Activity

In your groups, could you now reference where your source material came from for your collage?

Responses to the activity

What is your response?

Used with students as a creative icebreaker in referencing workshops to show:

- How referencing is only possible if they also take effective notes
- Referencing is more than just learning how to format citations in the correct style
- To show the linkage between study skills, research, note-taking, referencing
- To demonstrate the importance of note-taking, research skills and referencing to avoid academic malpractice





Resources you can use to aid transition to university study and independent learning

Humanities Study Skills Website:

<http://www.humanities.manchester.ac.uk/studyskills/>

Academic Phrasebank: <http://www.phrasebank.manchester.ac.uk/>

Young Person's University: <http://www.ypu.manchester.ac.uk/>

LearnHigher(collaboration of 16 HEIs in area of Learning Development):

http://www.learnhigher.ac.uk/home/about_learnhigher.html

Zondle: Free resource for making online games for use in education:

<https://www.zondle.com/>

During the exam period, the Oxford Road side of the AGLC is a **Silent Study Zone**



You must not:

- talk
- use devices that can be heard by others



