

STUDENT LEARNING CENTRE MASSEY UNIVERSITY ALBANY

POSTGRADUATE NEWSLETTER

SEMESTER 1, 2010

A warm welcome to Semester 1. We wish you all the best with your studies this semester!

This newsletter provides direct links to information and resources available from the Albany Student Learning Centre and on the Massey website. The Student Learning Centre (SLC) is situated on the lower level of the Study Centre. We offer consultations as well as a comprehensive range of workshops to support students in their studies.

CONSULTATIONS

The SLC has two specialist advisors available for consultations with postgraduate students. **Dr. Lilia Sevillano** offers consultations to students involved in thesis work. Our other Postgraduate Advisor is **Vanessa van der Ham** who works with students doing Graduate Diplomas, Postgraduate Diplomas and paper-based Honours and Masters degrees. The SLC's ESOL Advisor, **Martin McMorro**, may also be of some assistance to postgraduate students who have English as a second language.

To make an appointment for a consultation, please contact the SLC administrator, **Geraldine Tomlin**, by phone on 09 414 0800 extn: 9143 or email: slc-alb@massey.ac.nz

If you are doing postgraduate papers, you might want to book two consultations for a single assignment, beginning with a session in which the advisor helps you to analyse the assignment question and requirements. *Please make sure you always book your consultations at least two weeks in advance, particularly in peak times (such as a few days before assignments are due) when the SLC can be very heavily booked. Geraldine can help you to plan and book your consultations in advance, so please feel free to contact her early in the semester with this request.*

SUPPORT PROGRAMMES FOR POSTGRADUATES

The SLC on the Albany campus runs support sessions for postgraduates in two targeted streams:

- Postgraduate Thesis-writing seminars aimed at students doing Masters or PhD theses
- Writing Skills Workshops for Postgraduate Papers aimed at students doing postgraduate papers

The scheduling of the sessions accommodates students who want to attend both the thesis writing seminars and the workshops for postgraduate papers.

1. Postgraduate Thesis-writing Seminars

Each seminar is run twice a year to accommodate students at different stages of their research. The first seminar this semester will be held on 24 February and looks at *Writing the Research Proposal*.

Details for the seminars are available on the SLC's Postgraduate Support Brochure 2010. Please click [PG Brochure 2010](#) to access the brochure. To register for the Thesis-writing seminars, contact **Geraldine Tomlin** by phone on 09 414 0800 extn: 9143 or email: slc-alb@massey.ac.nz

2. Writing Skills Workshops for Postgraduate Papers

This series of workshops is designed specifically for students engaged in *paper-based* study at postgraduate level; however students doing thesis work will find some of the sessions useful. Most of the workshops will be run on Wednesdays from 12-2pm; however some will be run on Saturday mornings and Tuesday evenings as well to accommodate students working full time.

Details for the workshops are available in the SLC's Postgraduate Support Brochure 2010. Please click [PG Brochure 2010](#) to access the brochure.

To register for the Writing Skills workshops, please contact Geraldine slc-alb@massey.ac.nz

Please note that the first of these workshops – *Orientation to Academic Writing* (Saturday, 27 February) - is aimed at students who are unfamiliar with university study in New Zealand, for example:

- Students who have done their previous studies in another country
- Mature students returning to university study after a long absence
- Mature students entering university study for the first time.

However all postgraduate students are welcome to attend this workshop or to attend individual sessions of the workshop which might be useful to them.

A detailed programme for this workshop is available on the [Student Learning Centre Albany Postgraduate Support](#) page. Students who are unable to attend the rest of the Writing Skills workshops on Wednesdays might also like to come along to this Orientation workshop.

STUDENT LEARNING CENTRE ALBANY POSTGRADUATE SUPPORT PAGE

The postgraduate link of the Albany SLC website offers students a number of resources. These include:

- Details about programmes on offer and any changes to these programmes
- Links to notes from workshops
- Links to useful books in the library
- Links to websites offering reliable learning resources

[Click Here to Access](#)

SLC POSTGRADUATE SKILLS DVDS

The SLC has produced a number of DVDs including:

- Time management for university students
- Manage your memory
- Literature Reviews
- Ethics and human participant research
- Introduction to APA Referencing
- Postgraduate Thesis Toolkit
- Finishing your thesis
- Getting your research published

The SLC's DVDs are housed in the AV section of the Albany Campus library and are available for loan. Please ask at the information desk for details.

The *Postgraduate Thesis Toolkit* is also available for purchase from the Printery.

ONLINE WORKSHOPS

The following are some of the workshops available online on Massey's OWLL site:

1. Understanding the Postgraduate Academic Culture
2. Thesis Styles - 'Old' versus 'New'
3. Crafting the Literature Review
4. Brushing up on your Writing Style
5. Writing up to Finishing up
6. Polishing the Thesis
7. Preparing for the PhD Oral Exam
8. Presenting Your First Conference Paper

[Click Here to Access](#)

Also see the OWLL site for:

- Academic Writing: A Guide to Tertiary Level Writing
[Click Here to Access](#)
- **WebCT** information [Click Here to Access](#)
- **Stream** information [Click here to Access](#)
- Basic Word Formatting [Click Here to Access](#)

SERVICES FOR POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS ON ALBANY CAMPUS

This site has links to information on:

- Study Rooms
- Computer Labs

- Accommodation
- PhD Access to Buildings
- Learning Support
- The Graduate Students' Advisory Committee (see below)

[Click Here to Access](#)

GRADUATE STUDENTS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE (GSAC)

This Committee meets several times a year and has academic, student and support staff representatives. A range of issues are discussed and students are welcome to raise any concerns they have by contacting their College staff or student representative, or the Albany Students Association (ASA) Graduate Representative. Follow links from the Services for Postgraduate Students on Albany Campus site [here](#) to access contact details of members of the Committee.

ORIENTATION EVENTS FOR NEW POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS

[Click Here to Access](#)

THE POSTGRADUATE GUIDEBOOK

The University has produced a generic handbook on postgraduate study for students completing or intending to complete a research qualification. The latest copy of the *Guidebook* is available on the website of the Graduate Research School:

[Click Here to Access](#)

PODCAST: DEVELOPING ACADEMIC LANGUAGE, SKILLS AND CULTURAL AWARENESS

[Click here to access](#)

The Student Learning Centre at Albany produces a thrice-weekly podcast aimed at helping students develop academic language, skills and cultural awareness. Simply by clicking on the link above, you can read the content of each programme and click 'play' to listen to a fifteen-minute recording.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Postgraduate Advisors if you have any queries concerning the Albany SLC's services for postgraduate students:

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