

# LEARNING IN THE DIGITAL ERA



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**MODULE INTRODUCTION**



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# Welcome to the module: Learning in the Digital Era

## The aim of the module is:

To develop your skills for independent study and life-long learning, which will form the foundations for successful completion of your degree programme and support future career opportunities.

## Upon the successful completion of this module, you will be able to:

- Demonstrate the foundational skills required to be a resilient and healthy independent learner.
- Practise the principles of learning agility.
- Use suitable technology to support and enhance your learning experience within the discipline area.



# WAX ON - WAX OFF



Click on the image to play a video clip.



Figure 1: THE SECRET TO SUCCESS – WAX ON, WAX OFF  
(Image Source: Think, Be Do Leadership, 2017)

## Did you notice what was going on in the movie clip?

Much like Daniel in The Karate Kid movie, when he is told to wax cars and paint fences, some of the learning on this module might seem like it is a waste of time, as it does not appear directly related to the topic you signed up to study. Just like waxing cars didn't have much to do with Karate, so Daniel thought.

However, what he was learning were the foundational techniques that would lead to him lifting the trophy at the end of the movie.

Similarly, the techniques you will learn about in this module, will form the foundations for successful completion of your degree.

Learning to think and write critically, reference accurately to avoid plagiarism, use appropriate technology to support learning, reflect on learning and work as an effective team member are all skills essential to the successful completion of your degree.

Developing resilience, learning agility, and staying physically and mentally healthy are also fundamental to your success and form a key part of the learning on the module.

The module has 48 hours of scheduled learning, your module tutor will explain how this will be organised between face to face (in person or online) sessions and the use of the available digital content on Moodle. The online content is split between the following 4 units:



**Becoming  
a Digital  
Learner**



**Becoming  
a Team  
Player**



**Virtual  
Collaboration**



**Becoming  
a Lifelong  
Learner**

The module consists of two assessments, an e-portfolio and a video with supporting document, which you will find in the Module Handbook.

# Navigating Through the Module

As you work through this learning content you will be asked to undertake various types of learning activity to enhance and support your understanding of the material. It is important that you fully engage with these learning activities as the acquisition of information is only one part of the learning process – by being an active participant in your learning through these activities you will develop a deeper and richer understanding of the topics and concepts covered in the module.

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**Whenever you see the following tasks and icons, it means you need to complete an activity:**



**Check** tasks provide an opportunity for you to check how well you have understood the topic so far. Self-assessment is an important part of the learning process as it enables you to reinforce those concepts you understand well, and highlight any misconceptions and/or areas where you may need to do some further study.



You will often be asked to pause and consider ideas and concepts you have just learned, to allow the learning to “sink in” and start to think more widely about how it fits in with your discipline. Although **Reflect** tasks don't usually require you to write anything, it's important to take the time to think about the question asked and you can of course record your thoughts in your personal notes if you wish.



Learning online shouldn't be a solitary activity – being able to discuss, collaborate and compare your understanding with other learners doing the same study as you is a powerful tool in maximising your learning gains. Seeing that others have the same understanding as you can be a real confidence boost and reassure you that you are on the right track, and if others are interpreting things differently seeing things from a different perspective can be equally valuable. Being an active part of a learning community through a **Network** task brings benefits to you and other members of that community.



These modules cover topics and skills that are valuable across all disciplines, however you will be able to understand, appreciate and benefit most by considering how the learning fits in with your academic discipline and your own beliefs and values. **Apply** tasks give you the opportunity to place the learning in a context that is relevant to you, and to link your learning with your real life goals.

Everything you need you will find in the Moodle page for the module, where you will also find a question-and-answer forum to raise any concerns you have when progressing through the materials.



You are now ready to start your learning.

**Good Luck!**



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