

Step Up to Masters: Academic expectations (transcript)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZNligLna9sk>

What expectations do you have in terms of Masters level work, compared to undergraduate level?

Jackie: Okay so once you've completed Undergraduate level at a 2:1 or a first you're going to be in a position to start to grow and develop those skills so you're going to be refining them, you're going to be becoming a little bit more critical, a little bit more aware of what you're reading and you're going to be engaging in things that particularly interest you and that you're passionate about but we want you to engage in them in such a way that you're starting to question them and also to form your own voice about them so your own thinking but thinking that it's supported by evidence, by research that you have evaluated and reflected on for yourself.

Helen: So from a Master's student we'd be looking for a deeper demonstration of a deeper understanding, greater knowledge and so we'd be expecting students to read around the topic much more widely and therefore bring the arguments the views and the comments that they've been exposed to in that wider reading, into their balanced arguments within their writing.

What academic skills do you expect Masters students to demonstrate? How and why?

Dani: I'm expecting my students to be able to look at multiple sources and be able to form an argument based on them. I don't want people to just be regurgitating something that they've read, what we actually want to see is people summarising all of the literature that they're reading and then coming to a conclusion from that, not just assuming that because someone else said it that must be their correct answer.

What are you looking for in a Masters student's writing?

David: So in a Master's level student writing, we're really looking for the student to engage with the literature and develop a critical understanding of it and develop that understanding into a systematic argument that they can communicate through their writing.

Tristano: I would say that there is a general structure that is implied it's very important to match the expectations of the reader and therefore having a proper introduction of the argument, follow up with the main discussion, there might be more than one different stream, and then summarise those to a unique conclusion is very important because that's what the reader is looking for and that is the main receipt but in addition to that you need to tailor very much to the specific questions and assignments that you want to answer really.