

Step Up to Masters: Independent learning (transcript)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7apl4KbphRM>

How are the expectations different, in terms of independent learning?

Peter: I studied at the Open University before I came here where it is independent study but very clearly guided independent study. Here you get guidance on the direction, you get a few suggested readings but it's up to you to develop that further. That I've enjoyed doing, it has been good, but knowing that if I've got any questions the tutors are on the end of the phone or the other end of an email and they always respond. I found really supportive, really good and useful.

Di: It's hard for Chinese student to learn independently because that other study way we do is to follow the lead of the tutor and to do the, I don't know, very mechanical learning and for UK we have to learn very flexible. The tutor I think they only gave the way to learn, how to learn, and we have to learn by ourselves.

Salla: I think in my undergrad I was given a much broader reading list from each tutor for each module that I could probably use mostly for my assignments I could do a little bit of external research if I wanted to add some information into something that I was really passionate about but mainly if I just used the readings that were provided by the professor I could get good marks on my papers, however at the Masters level, that wasn't enough you know some teachers don't even really give you any, you know, long reading list they give you a couple of core textbooks and then they expect you to find your own topic to research on and you do the research purely by yourself a lot of the time.

What study support have you made use of?

Rodrigo: I've been using the library for different books that I've been requiring for my different subjects. I've been using the library resources online and also if I'm not wrong when I first came here I used one to one support of the Skills@library for Critical Writing just to correct some of my mistakes that at first I was using when I was starting to write in English in a different way that I was used to writing.

Hannah: Well my faculty has a co-operation with the Royal Literary Fellows, I think that's what they're called, and I didn't really know about them in the first semester, I didn't really pay attention there was too much going on but in the second semester I heard about them and went to them and asked for their support in that.

So yeah apart from the Literary Fellows I also went to their workshops from Skills@library, I signed up for a couple of them and I thought they were very helpful, they were about writing a literature review which is, well especially for the Master's project, really, really important and

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yeah I thought they were very helpful, they added onto the knowledge I already had about literature reviews but also gave me insights on how I could structure myself a bit better so yeah for everyone who's just coming here, especially towards the Master's project, I would recommend just checking which topics are offered and which ones would help your own learning.