

Making the most of your feedback

10 top tips from students for students



Read the feedback carefully

Ensure you read the feedback comments carefully and thoroughly - do not just look at the mark. Appreciate the positives as well as taking note of areas for improvement in the next assessment.



Seek clarification

If you are not clear on what the comments mean or if you are unsure how to interpret your feedback, follow-up with specific lecturers, academic tutors, or peers. If feedback is discussed in-class, take your assignment with you so you can take notes and highlight important areas for improvement.



Prepare for meetings

Make sure you prepare in advance for any meeting to discuss feedback with your lecturer and/or academic tutor, so you have relevant and well thought out questions in order to use the time effectively. Preparation will also help in being more receptive to constructive criticism.



Be proactive

When you receive feedback, try to summarise the feedback into bullet points and create a checklist of areas of improvement to review before starting on your next task. You could take some time to re-think the question, or the problem-set, and focus on the areas for improvement that were raised in the feedback.



Build resilience

Negative feedback does not mean you are no good, it just means you may not have understood the issue and can improve in the future. Feedback reflects the specific piece of work, not you and your potential.

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Speak to other students

Network and talk to your peers about your feedback. Compare feedback comments, learn from the strengths and weaknesses identified, and think about how you could use feedback for the future.



Avoid plagiarism

Collaboration is a great way to share ideas about an assignment but be aware of accidental plagiarism if too much discussion takes place between you and your peers. When more than one student contributes to a piece of work that is submitted as the work of an individual, this is called collusion and you may be penalised for this.



Think objectively

Use feedback as a learning opportunity by comparing it against the assignment brief and marking criteria to see how you can close the gap for the next assignment. Be practical and objective when taking the feedback on board, use it as a positive interaction as if you were giving advice to a friend.



Reflect to move forward

When you are working on a project/assignment, reflect on your strengths and areas where previous pieces of work received positive feedback and adopt similar strategies. Take on board lessons learned from and adapt your approach to improve your next project or assignment.



Make use of University tools and resources

If you struggled on a certain section (e.g. referencing, critical writing, statistics etc.), seek advice. Make use of a wide range of free services and support tools available to you at the University, including the Library's list of Study Advice guides and Maths support.