



# Active Success at Uni - Open interactive learning

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Go to: <https://activesuccessatuni.usq.edu.au/>

## An open textbook

*Active Success at Uni* is an online textbook produced by a team of enabling educators from the Open Access College at USQ. It covers a wide range of topics relevant to university preparatory study, including academic communication, referencing and study management, along with an introduction to life and culture in a university environment and postgraduate study. Unlike a traditional textbook, it consists of a number of independently functioning online modules and has the flexibility to be integrated into a range of USQ enabling courses. Following a trial period at USQ, the resource will be available as an open educational resource and be accessible by a broader community of students and educators.

## Benefits

- A student-centred open resource of high quality and effectiveness
- Builds on USQ's 40 years of experience in technology-enhanced education to non-traditional student groups
- Meets the specific needs of a diverse range of students:
  - Considers complex academic, social and emotional needs
  - Active learning based on 'why students succeed'
  - Geared to motivate and engage
- Covers a broad range of topics — including academic communication, antiplagiarism, university culture, and retention strategies
  - A critical thinking (CT) module is under development \*\*
- Structured as independently functioning online modules, able to be used in a range of contexts

## Enabling Education

The textbook aims to remove many of the barriers to tertiary education encountered by nontraditional students as they attempt to negotiate university study. Its highly interactive and student-centred nature makes it accessible to as wide an audience as possible, including those with limited experience of university study, those with hearing and vision impairment, and students from non-English Speaking backgrounds.



## Impact

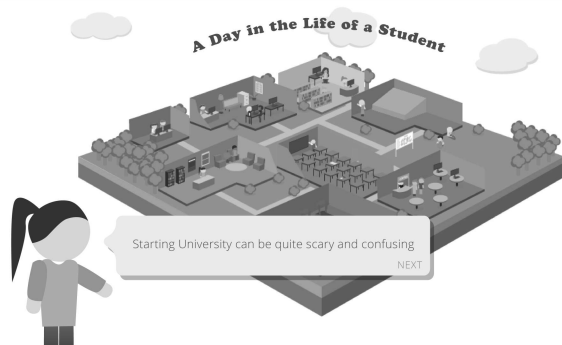
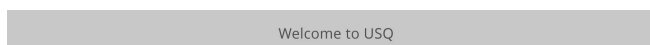
USQ Open Access College students have been using *Active Success at Uni*. Here is what they say about it:



\*\* Why CT as an enabling strategy?

Critical thinking (CT) is thinking that is sceptical, open-minded, evidence-based, rigorous, and principled. It embodies attitudes and a set of core academic skills that ensure objective analysis, deep understanding and effective problem solving—the basis for the conduct of sound scholarship and the development of effective self-directed learners. It also represents a key 'soft skill' highly rated by graduate employers.

The development of CT empowers enabling learners to overcome barriers to success at university—providing not only core academic skills but an understanding of the university culture and values that underpin academic attitudes and expectations. The early mastery of CT serves to facilitate the necessary realignment of paradigms required by these students to affect effective transition into university study.



'A day in the life of a student' is an activity that introduces new students to a typical uni campus and the supports that are available. Avatars act as tour guides