

TABLE 2: DIFFERENCE BETWEEN STUDYING AT HIGH SCHOOL AND UNIVERSITY OR TAFE

The table below outlines the main differences between studying at high school and at university or TAFE. Highlight the ones that you think you will find the easiest to manage. In a different colour, highlight the ones that you think that you will find most challenging.

STUDYING AT HIGH SCHOOL	STUDYING AT UNIVERSITY OR TAFE
It is a young person's learning environment. Your parents/guardians can be contacted directly to discuss any matters related to your attendance or study.	It is an adult learning environment. Staff at universities and TAFEs cannot discuss matters concerning your study or attendance with anyone else (including your parents/guardians) without your permission.
Schools may use online resources to supplement teaching material.	Many universities and TAFEs use online processes for student enrolments, course information, discussion forums, submission of assignments, and the delivery of course material.
Your classes are scheduled for you.	Lectures are set, but you may be able to select your preferred time for tutorials and practicals.
Teachers carefully monitor class attendance.	Attendance at lectures is not monitored. Attendance at tutorials and practicals is usually monitored.
Classes generally have about 25 students.	Lectures may have 100 students or more. Tutorials and practicals usually have about 20 to 30 students.
Teachers check your completed homework.	Lecturers and teaching staff don't check you have done required readings. However, tutorial discussions, assessment tasks and exams require that you have read these.
Teachers approach you if they believe you need assistance.	Lecturers and teaching staff expect you to approach them if you do not understand class material or task requirements.
Teachers often write information on the board to be copied in your notes or provide handouts of relevant information.	Lecturers may present their material without stopping, expecting you to note the important points. It is important to take good notes or record the lecture if handouts are not provided. Tutorials or practicals may extend or apply the lecture material.
Teachers often remind you of the due dates for assessment tasks. They may accept late submission with no penalties.	Lecturers expect you to keep track of the due dates for assessment tasks. You may have marks deducted for late submissions.
You usually spend 20 to 25 hrs in class between the hours of 8.30am and 3:30pm, Monday to Friday.	As a full-time university student you can expect to spend 12 to 20 hours each week in lectures or tutorials between 8am and 9pm, Monday to Friday. TAFE classes may require more contact hours.
You may study outside of class as little as a few hours a week.	University requires you to study at least 1 hour outside of class for each hour in class to keep up, e.g. 16 hrs of class time requires at least 16 hours of private study per week.
Study and revision tasks are often set by the teacher throughout the school year.	You will need to plan and manage your own study time and revision tasks. Some assessment tasks may be due at the same time. It is advisable to use a Weekly Planner and a Semester Assessment Planner. (See Chapter 6).
You often need to read or hear presentations only once to learn all you need to know about them.	Concepts and ideas can be more complex and difficult to understand. You may need to review lecture notes and other study material regularly.
You are expected to read short specific amounts of material (for example one book chapter).	You may be assigned extensive reading material. You may also be required to read additional material from books or journal articles.
Writing tasks may not require referencing or acknowledging information sources.	Universities have strict policies about plagiarism, which is using someone's work as your own. This includes the internet and other students' work. Find out the referencing guide for your course and follow these guidelines to acknowledge others' theories or research.