

1 ALUMNI TIPS AND SUGGESTIONS 2022

1.1 Top Tips!

- “I only have one...and it is determination.”
- “Patience and perseverance attains all things!”

1.2 General

- “Have an open mind – adopt and adapt. Consider this a new adventure.”
- “Adapt, adjust and seek help!”
- “Keep your head high and remain positive at all times no matter what.”
- “Be positive, balanced, and purpose-driven.”
- “Have a positive mindset. Follow instructions. Be cooperative.”
- “Allocate your time wisely. Actively connect with everyone.”
- “Explore and gain new experiences all the time. You will cherish it when you return.”
- “Be like a sponge. Absorb all of the learnings inside and outside the classroom that will make you a better version of your already great selves!”
- “Try to get as much as you can from your lecturers and fellow students.”
- “Enjoy your time down under – but don’t forget your responsibilities.”
- “Best time is at DITC. Enjoy and learn as it will pay off and give you friends beyond boundaries.”
- “Take studies seriously and at the same time try to have the best time in Australia.”
- “Be diligent and disciplined.”

Administration *[I promise we didn't write these ones ourselves!!]*

- “Relax and have confidence in the DCSP team and follow their instructions. They will take care of you.”
- “Always keep in contact with Scope Global staff for all information necessary.”
- “Don’t worry about admin arrangements as the DCSP team is extremely responsible and capable to deal with multifaceted tasks.”
- “Make sure you update Scope DCSP team if you have some issues you need them to address.”
- “Scope DCSP team are angels under the umbrella of Scope Global, so discuss each and every thing with them instead of facing issues at the end.”

1.3 Focus and Goals

- “Set a personal goal at the beginning of the program.”
- “Study to learn and not just for grades. Hard work is rewarded through good scores.”
- “Know what you are doing and prioritise what is more important for you.”
- “Set your goals – achieve them by being organised and focused.”
- “Know how to handle challenges, be they academic or environmental – practice by asking tons of questions to sources you know are reliable.”

1.4 Returning to study after a long time

- “I had a significant break from studies and therefore required significant amount of ‘catching-up’ training. I had assumed too much.”
- “Initially I set my goals really high, but soon realised how ill-prepared I was when it comes to crafting research papers.”
- “I had issues with managing the subject load because I left the basics for the subjects a long time ago.”

1.5 Seeking help (academic and/or personal)

- **“Do not be afraid to ask – there are no wrong questions.”**
- “If you are not sure about anything, just ask. Don’t assume!”
- “Seek academic support from your university to improve your academic language, particularly writing skills and referencing.”
- “There will be challenges along the way but they are very easy to hurdle because you have professionals who are always ready to guide you and provide you all the information for you to finish your respective courses with flying colours.”
- “The first semester will be the hardest time for anyone, so you should focus on studying and try to be familiar with the academic studying style. Make contact as soon as possible with the lecturer when you have any troubles related to studying.”
- “It is very useful to approach the lecturers earlier in the semesters in order to receive clarification for the assessments including the essays, seminars and the exams. All the lecturers are very supportive especially if you are international students. Do not hesitate to approach them.”
- “Remain in contact with your teaching staff and seek guidance while doing assignments.”
- “Build a very close professional relationship with course coordinator and lecturers ASAP and let them know who you are.”
- “Contact your unit convenors if you don’t understand what is required.”
- “Always speak to your instructors and get advice from them. Use available facilities, use library facilities as much as possible, have good networks, talk to people around you.”
- “My tip is that every problem can be solved, if you talk to your friends, your university, and especially the project manager.”
- “The support I received from lecturers as well as admin staff was excellent and they are always ready to help.”
- “Know where to look for help. No-one does it all by themselves and succeeds. Scope DCSP team, former students, your classmates are definitely valuable sources.”
- “If there is something you wish or need to know, ASK. Keep in touch with Scope DCSP team or anyone at Scope Global.”
- “Don’t let yourself get isolated, and reach out to friends to help you when you are struggling.”
- “Assistance is always available from your peer group, university academic and administrative support staff; do not hesitate to ask.”

1.6 Academic Writing

- “Take as much benefit from DITC as you can. Working hard at DITC will help you in your universities. You should particularly focus on referencing and writing research essays.”
- “Make maximum use of your stay at DITC in terms of lectures, assignments and other valuable resources available to all of you. This will make you enjoy the rest of your university

life. You might find it somewhat difficult at the start but you will enjoy once you will hand in your Research Essays and deliver Presentations.”

- “Start early in adopting to the critical and analytical thinking mode. This is crucial in the post-grad study environment.”

- “Since the major assignments at the master level are writing essays, you will be able to produce a good quality writing only by adequately reading and understanding the topic of interest. Even for students who have existing knowledge of particular subject should read as much as possible. In academic writing we must acknowledge other people’s original ideas through appropriate referencing or citation system. The more you read the more capable you are to write.”
- “Start the writing assignments as soon as topic questions are provided, and utilise the lecturer’s advice and academic writing support from university’s librarian or relevant persons.”

1.7 Time Management

- “Make your schedule for the whole semester before the semester starts by taking information from university academic plan. Plan your assignment submission dates. It is all about time management. This way one can study as well as plan outings with family.”
- “Make a realistic schedule (incorporate class schedules, submissions, other commitments” at semester start and then follow it with full commitment. However, keep sufficient margin to cater for the unknown.”
- “Use a school diary to schedule due dates of all assignments and classes to make sure that you will not get lost or be late for any assignments.”
- “Use EndNote as a valuable tool to save a huge amount of time in referencing.”
- “Organise your time wisely. Start writing your assignments early. Study hard but don’t be too worried about the grades. Don’t forget to make new friends and enjoy your life.”
- “Set your own deadlines for various academic requirements.”
- “Make sure you do all your assignments well in advance.”
- “Organise your time. Many students face stressful situations in their study because they try to complete their assignments in the last couple of days, even some do it in the last hours. I found that this overnight strategy does not work in achieving satisfactory results during the Masters program in Australian university. Therefore, managing your time in completing assignments will play a considerable role in your academic achievement. “
- “Managing your time would benefit your non-academic life, for example, it will save more quality time with your family and friends which will offer you more balance in your day to day journey in Australia. In a nutshell, time management will make your study enjoyable and fruitful.”

1.8 Study Groups

- “Identify good students and make a group, for group assignments. If successful, keep same group in next semester.”
- “Identify good and regular students in first semester and then make a team for remaining semesters. That will assist in good collaborative work.”

1.9 Participation

- “Be active in class. Participation will help you understand what you need to know. Do not be afraid to try new things.”
- “Try to get involved in group activities; don’t just stay in your comfort zone.”

1.10 Balance between study and family

- “Work hard – no short-cuts. But don’t forget to have fun. Don’t worry because you will be surrounded by friendly and helpful people.”
- “Enjoy studies – remember your first priority is your studies. Explore the environment, when you are free travel around and learn, enjoy the cultural difference.”
- “Your university is only one source of education for you, but remember you learn a lot on a daily basis from the Australian way of life and interactions. Value it. Strike a balance between studies and personal life. Help your friends and colleagues.”
- “Integrate with Australian students and avoid keeping to yourselves and the usual international students’ grouping both inside and outside of the classroom.”
- “Maintain a balance between studies and leisure activities.”
- “Network and enjoy the cultural experience.”
- “Balance other social factors with study.”
- “Prioritise your study and social activities.”
- “Make full use of your time in Australia by enjoying the studies as well as quality time with family.”
- “Try to go around and explore other areas and culture for a rich experience. Have fun but don’t forget your studies.”
- “Enjoy your break to explore the beauty of Australia. It will surprise you and give you a lot of memorable moments in your life.”
- “In order to enjoy your life in Australia, you must learn and live like an Aussie. From my experience, the first lecture or orientation session is a good start. I still have Aussie friends and keep in touch since then, also the DCSP cohort.”

1.11 Health

- “Ensure the wellbeing of your personal health. It is obvious that study in an academic environment will generate some pressure for the students therefore physical and mental fitness should be maintained at all times. Students may fail due to illness or fatigue. Therefore, at regular times, it is highly recommended to press the refresh button of your personal life. It can be done by allocating enough time for rest, consuming healthy foods and vitamins, doing regular exercise, doing your hobbies, interacting with people other than your academic life, pray and do your religious activity, plan and take holiday with your family and many other enjoyable things that may physically and mentally reenergise you. The most often you get refreshed the better the result.”

1.12 Community and Legal

- “Get in touch with the local community and mix well.”
- “Follow the rules and regulations of Australia to stay out of trouble and make the internet your best friend to find all possible solutions to anything.”

1.13 Accommodation

- “For arriving students, analyse market price for rental property. Find properties while in Melbourne and set an average price. Search forums for actual rental averages.”
- “If you look after the property well, the agent will look after you. Please try to understand how they do things in Australia otherwise it will reflect on all DCSP students in the future. ‘When you’re in Rome, do what the Romans do’. It will make your life easier during your time in Australia.”
- “If renting, try to rent for 6 months first, for there might be a better option. But if you like the place you rent, rent for 1 year so you won’t be affected by any price increases.”

- “If you have transportation, is it better to rent a house outside the CBD, as it will be cheaper compared to town.”
- “For departing students, sell your things a couple of months before leaving. Mine were sold too late that is why most were sold for peanuts or for free.”

2 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

When students were about to complete their program, they were asked:

- a) How they would be able to implement their Australian learning/life experience after they returned home, and*
- b) How they planned to build on their gained knowledge/experience in both a professional and personal context.*

Below are some of their comments. Keep these in mind during your scholarship journey and don't forget what comes next!

“To get better understanding on Australia’s strategic view so it will reduce misinterpretation between the two nations. Considering we are a very close neighbour geographically, getting a better understanding about Australian thinking as well as the culture will no doubt lead to better cooperation and better communication.”

“The learning and quest for knowledge is largely a personal thing and must be continuous and an unending process. That views and perspectives need to be examined more critically and incisively from various prisms and lenses of scrutiny. My education in Australia will definitely inspire me to initiate activities and programs which will improve my organisation and its members professionally and spur my colleagues to pursue higher learning in the various fields which we ought to develop a keen understanding and specialised knowledge in accordance with international standards.”

“I often work with Australian counterparts in my job. Even in my next posting there is an Australian officer working with me. The experience here can be used to work with the Australian representative better.”

2.1 Professional development

- “I was able to re-discover myself that I can work harder to produce good results. I have gained insight into many areas (how organisations work, how to handle people, how to analyse projects. On the academic level, I have developed skills to do academic research and feel very confident to undertake more studies. I achieved much more than what I set for myself, and I was happily surprised with my results.”
- “The most expressive and valuable skills I learnt in Australia are critical thinking and doing research. I will use those to enhance my ability in doing some research in my work-place as well as to build a data-driven organisational culture.”
- “I will treat ‘critical thinking’ as something positive, not negative, and I will do my best to encourage this in my peers and subordinates.”
- “I think time management is the most valuable lesson learnt from my academic experience. Especially the wealth of management tools and techniques available in the academic, business and engineering fields. The challenges are how this knowledge can be applied in a military organisation.”
- “Improve my working environment with better leadership and management quality.”
- “My course allowed me to gain a different perspective on geopolitical events, and because of this I will be more attuned to what is happening internationally.”
- “Build on what I gained from university by experimenting with applying the theoretical and practical knowledge learnt and tailor it in such a way that can be successfully implemented in the military context.”
- “I am planning and conducting professional development programs and workshops related to gained knowledge. This also involves doing surveys and research, which would, in turn, maintain as well as sharpen my knowledge.”
- “Professionally, it has helped me build a better framework on strategic planning, which is closely related to my work now.”
- “I learnt a lot after finishing my course. It not only helped broaden my knowledge in a professional area, but also assists me to improve my English language. These will be useful for me in my career journey.”

- “By providing background information on a wide range of subject matters, Australian learning will surely improve the quality of my work when returning home.”

2.2 Personal development

- “I will view things from multiple perspectives in the future.”
- “I am more equipped to deal with people and organisations and contribute positively to improve things.”
- “Work-life balance in my daily routines.”
- “Paying respect towards others.”
- “Personal responsibility.”
- “Better family life with good and quality time management.”
- “The learning knowledge has tremendous effects on my leadership and management quality in both professional and personal undertakings.”
- “Personally, it has enhanced my critical and analytical thinking, helps me to see a broader picture which will enable me to do more comprehensive planning in all aspects of my life.”

3 FINAL WORDS

“Set your goals high and dream big when you are awake (if not, you will forget your dreams).

Study very hard towards your dreams. Always believe that everything is achievable.”