

Planning Your Studies

You're young, energetic and a party animal. Late nights, beer, men/women, beer, food and beer! That's uni life for you. Once the hangovers are gone and the kegs are empty you begin to realise that there's an assignment due and classes start in 10 minutes and you're in beer soaked clothes. There is a simple solution.

University is an immense change from school life. No homework, no compulsory attendance (except tutorials, but you just sleep through those), and no one to tell you what to do; and to top it off there's all the endless uni parties and social gatherings to attend. What young engineers need to remember are two simple words: Time Management. Yes we've all heard those notorious words before, but what do they mean at uni?

Here's a simple definition. Be prepared and put some time away for your studies. Read your lecture notes before lectures, highlight points you don't understand, ask questions to gain full understanding, do the tutorial work (as they are great for quizzes), start assignments from the day you get them, go to the last weeks of lectures (as they often give out exam hints!), and finally work with your friends or in groups as many hands make for light work. If you can manage to squeeze in some lectures and tutorials and sit down and work through assignments from day one you'll be able to avoid the hunched over, hung-over, ragged look as you scribble illegible words into paper for marking.