

'Just in time; just for me' support for academics who coordinate a unit of study

<http://learningleadersupport.com>

For Unit Coordinators to: learn from the experiences of others; inspire alternative solutions to 'old' problems; and expand upon and explain the many aspects of the role in a dedicated one-stop site.

For Academic Developers to: initiate discussion and reflection with new Unit Coordinators; and help address and resolve the challenges academics may encounter.

**Explore a wide range of narratives,
resources and video clips created
'just for you'**



Just in time; just for me narrative support for Unit Coordinators is a uniquely designed website for academics who coordinate a unit of study. The website contains more than 75 narrative accounts, 90 video clips and 80 text based resources aimed at supporting and developing busy, time poor and sometimes discouraged Unit Coordinators who may encounter any number of challenges in the course of their work. Analysis of the narratives revealed a number of challenges that were grouped into nine themes, listed below in order of frequency of mentions:

1. Teaching and assessment;
2. Starting out;
3. Maintaining and improving unit quality;
4. Managing workloads and complexity;
5. Sessional staff;
6. Leading learning;
7. Technology and administration;
8. The research/teaching dilemma; and
9. Isolation.

Narrative accounts were chosen as a means of presenting data because they focus on an aspect of experience from which a whole picture is built. Narratives were crafted from interviews with Unit Coordinators from universities across Australia. They provide context for making meaning of life situations and give honour and status to the narrative 'teller'. Readers may identify with a narrative and gain comfort from it.

To further alleviate the challenges 'fellow travellers' offered 170 suggestions and 'unashamedly simplistic' Quick Tips which are available on the website.

"Congratulations on this wonderful project. It 'nails' all the issues that coordinators face, including time constraints, balancing teaching and research and also dealing with challenging colleagues."

"The summary of tips is useful as are the narratives that people can relate to."

"The focus on unit coordination and leadership is excellent."

"I liked several narratives and this gives me some insight into experiences of different academics in a range of diverse situations."

"I like the fact that the site acknowledges the realities of many coordinators' situations – and does not pretend that the situation is 'all rosy'."

"The resources are great!"



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