

What are the differences between lectures and seminars?

Lecture	Seminar
The lecturer delivers an hour long talk, on a specific topic, on your course.	Seminars are used to broaden your knowledge about lecture topics. You need to attend your lectures to be able to participate in seminars.
While students can ask questions during lectures, discussions among students are limited. Here the lecturer is explaining vital information to you so that you pass your course. Here you are absorbing new information from the academic, explaining theories and concepts.	Seminars are traditionally designed to encourage discussions between students, these are more interactive in nature. Don't be afraid to ask questions about areas you were unsure of or didn't understand (you never know who else feels the same).
Large cohort groups - sit wherever feels comfortable but remember you need to be able to see the screen and hear the lecturer (the lecturer can see you wherever you sit - even at the back)	Smaller class sizes. This is beneficial as it allows one-to-one support and you can ask your academic questions.
Students are expected to write independent notes - choose handwritten or typed. Typed is quicker but handwritten helps you retain information. Have a look at our listening skills section on our website.	Students will be asked to contribute to class discussions and work in groups. You can reread your notes from your lecture and then prepare questions you want to ask in the seminar. Seminars are about exploring topics and thinking critically - so, don't worry if other students have opposing views or ideas.
1 hour long - this means you need train yourself to focus for 50 minutes	2 hours long - this usually includes breaks.

Academic Skills Resources

Typically you will receive reading suggestions at the end of lectures

You may be required to read specific papers prior to your seminar. It's really important you do the readings required, so you can participate in the conversation. If no one does the readings then it's going to be really difficult to debate and discuss. Reread your lecture notes as well!