

Teaching students from diverse backgrounds

1. Resources for staff and students	
View 'International Students Stories' to gain an understanding of overseas student experiences and expectations	Go to the Study and Learning Centre's Learning Lab. http://emedia.rmit.edu.au/learninglab/content/international-student-stories
Familiarise yourself and your students with the academic support provided by the Study and Learning Centre and the Library	Access links in list: Study and Learning Centre home page: http://www.rmit.edu.au/studyandlearningcentre RMIT Learning Lab: http://emedia.rmit.edu.au/learninglab/welcome Show students these links in lectures, in modules, in course guides. Place links for Study and Learning Centre and RMIT Library on Blackboard.
2. Your use of language	
Speak clearly and become aware of the language demands of your course	Introduce new vocabulary, concepts and proper names at beginning of class. Do not use idioms; explain acronyms; interpret local knowledge.
3. Referencing	
Make time in class to talk about plagiarism, what it is and how to avoid it through learning how to reference correctly.	Make sure the students know the style of referencing used in your course. Show them how to access Library referencing guides. Take students through Learning Lab module on referencing in class and refer to it on Blackboard and in course guides.
Set a short assignment, less than 500 words, that requires students to do in-text referencing and a short reference list at the end.	Allocate a high proportion of marks for correct referencing. Provide feedback on paraphrasing and referencing.

TIPS FOR ACADEMIC STAFF

4. Structuring assignments	
Provide models of student writing when setting assignments	Put models on Blackboard. Go over models in class pointing out appropriate language; review against the assessment criteria.
'Teach the task' – go through the requirements of the task in class and in group discussion	Refer to tip sheet: 'Teach the task'. Be explicit about your requirements and discuss them in class: genre, marking criteria, instruction words etc.
In class, access the online modules on writing assignments in the Learning Lab	Refer to the writing and assignments sections, especially the structure required by the genre.
4. Critical thinking	
In class, explicitly model critical thinking	Take a piece of writing, clarify concepts used, and demonstrate analysis, synthesis and evaluation of the argument contained in it.