

**Frequently Asked Questions:
Support for Quality Learning and Teaching at UWS**

This document answers some of the FAQs about how UWS is supporting student learning and academic staff development in 2013.

Student learning support

1. Has UWS 'closed' the Student Learning Unit?

- The former Student Learning Unit (SLU) has not been closed or disbanded, but augmented and expanded to better meet the needs of students across campuses and in Schools.
- The former SLU is now part of the new [Learning and Teaching Unit \(LTU\)](#) which combines support for learning and teaching.
- An extra seven staff members have been appointed to provide intensive academic support in academic literacy and mathematics, further strengthening this vital service.

2. Does UWS still offer learning support programs for first year students?

- Yes, all the programs that were offered in 2012 continue in 2013, including UniStep for academic literacy, Academic Preparation (AcPrep) and a range of Mathematics bridging programs. School-based support also continues in partnership with academic staff. For more information on these offerings see: http://www.uws.edu.au/currentstudents/current_students/services_and_facilities/bridging_programs2/bridging_programs_frequently_asked_questions

3. Does UWS still offer PASS?

- Yes, the Peer Assisted Study Sessions (PASS) program continues to be an important part of our support for student learning at UWS.
- The PASS program is now coordinated by Student Support Services.
- Currently, the PASS program depends largely on federal government funding which is not guaranteed beyond 2013. Our goal is to strengthen PASS at UWS. To achieve this goal we will review the program and program funding, and engage in consultation with students and staff to ensure its ongoing success.
- We aim to further strengthen PASS by making the most of connections with other UWS mentoring programs.

4. What does the Learning and Teaching Unit (LTU) do?

- The LTU is part of a 'hub and spoke' approach providing local support for learning and teaching in schools. It includes:
 - a) the Maths Education Support Hub (MESH): 7 staff distributed across campuses to support students' mathematics skill development
 - a) the Hub for Academic Literacy and Language Support (HALL): 9 staff located centrally and in Schools to support academic literacy. This team works in partnership with staff in the Research portfolio who support postgraduate academic literacy.
 - b) the Blended Learning team: 6 staff to support academic staff with advice and resources on using vUWS and blended learning in the curriculum.
- The LTU works with three other L&T hubs led by the Associate PVCs Education. In total, 22 academic developers and curriculum support staff are currently working in Schools to support learning, teaching and curriculum development.

Academic staff development for learning and teaching

5. What professional development is available for academic staff?

- The Foundations of University Learning and Teaching (FULT) program continues and will be coordinated by the Organisational Development Unit as part of the suite of programs for academic staff development. See: http://www.uws.edu.au/organisational_development/od.
- For updates on professional development and awards and grants for learning and teaching, see: http://www.uws.edu.au/learning_teaching/learning_and_teaching.