INDEV at UW

Kealan in Peru; Carlee in Nepal; Hannah in Senegal; Ian in Sri Lanka
WHAT TO EXPECT:
LIFE AS AN ENV STUDENT

JULY 29, 2020
INTRODUCTIONS

Who we are

- **Karen Robertson**, INDEV Academic Advisor
- **John Abraham**, Lecturer, International Work Placement Manager
- Regrets: **Michael Wood**, Associate Director, Undergraduate Studies
- Student volunteers: **Nashmia Aamir** and **Matthew Choi Shaeffer**
QUESTIONS WE WILL ANSWER TODAY

- What is the main differences between high school and university?
- What is expected of me as a Waterloo student?
- What are the important dates I should know?
- What will courses be like?
- What information should I know to succeed?
## WHAT IS DIFFERENT?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In some high schools...</th>
<th>In university...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• No preparation for class was necessary</td>
<td>• It is expected you have prepared BEFORE lecture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Teachers taught material in class</td>
<td>• Instructors focus on teaching main concepts in class</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Homework was sometimes assigned to do outside of the classroom</td>
<td>• Regular studying and reviewing outside of the classroom is necessary</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Limited independent work was necessary</td>
<td>• Emphasis on working in groups (outside of the classroom)</td>
</tr>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>80% learning in class</th>
<th>20% learning in class</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20% independent learning outside of class</td>
<td>80% independent learning outside of class</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## HIGH SCHOOL VS. UNIVERSITY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>High School</th>
<th>University</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Class Time</strong></td>
<td>110 hours</td>
<td>48 hours (lectures, labs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Class Size</strong></td>
<td>30</td>
<td>30 to 300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Learning Environment</strong></td>
<td>Controlled, Monitored</td>
<td>Less Structured</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Course Load (per term)</strong></td>
<td>4 courses</td>
<td>5 courses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Assessment</strong></td>
<td>More weight on homework, projects</td>
<td>More weight on tests, exams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Expectations</strong></td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grades</strong></td>
<td>80s</td>
<td>Low 70s</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## WHAT WILL BE DIFFERENT?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic tasks</th>
<th>Life tasks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preparation for class/labs/tutorials</td>
<td>Extracurricular activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lecture/class time</td>
<td>Time with family and friends</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daily review/create lecture summaries</td>
<td>3 meals a day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Completing course readings/materials</td>
<td>Part time job/volunteering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Completing assignments/course work</td>
<td>Me time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preparing for quizzes, midterms, exams</td>
<td>Laundry/ Self care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time to catch up!!!</td>
<td>SLEEP!!!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
EXPECTATIONS OF AN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STUDENT
FIRST YEAR COURSES

Fall

- GEOG 101
  - Human Geographies: People, Space and Change
- ECON 101
  - Introduction to Microeconomics
- PLAN 100
  - The Evolution of Planning
- INDEV 100
  - Introduction to International development
- Plus one elective

Winter

- ECON 102
  - Introduction to Macroeconomics
- INDEV 101
  - Issues in International Development
- ENVS 195
  - Introduction to Environmental Studies
- Plus two electives
ACADEMIC EXPECTATIONS

- 20 Academic Units
- Minimum cumulative overall average: 65%
- Minimum cumulative major average: 70%
- English Language Requirement: INDEV 101 (65%+)
IMPORTANT DATES AND COURSE INFORMATION
FIRST YEAR COURSES

Important Dates:

- Last day to add: Sept. 21
- Drop, no penalty: Sept. 28
- Drop, penalty 1 (WD): Sept. 29
- Drop, penalty 2 (WF): Nov. 24
ONLINE LECTURES

- 2 -3 lectures a week that are 1 to 1 ½ hours long or 1 lecture per week for 3 hours
- 100-300 people per class, with multiple classes per course
- Ensure you’re in a comfortable workspace that’s conducive to your learning
FIRST DAY OF LECTURES

- Information you will get on the first day:
  - Overview of Syllabus
  - Navigating the Course Online
  - Introduction to TAs (if applicable)
SYLLABUS/ COURSE OUTLINE

Will include all relevant course information including:

- Class instructor’s name, office, contact information, office hours
- Course description and objectives
- Required text and/or readings
- The evaluation structure
- Institutional-required statements
  - Academic Integrity
  - Discipline
  - Appeals
  - Note for students with disabilities
  - Etc.
TIPS FOR SUCCESS
WHEN THINGS GET TOUGH...

Speak up and let us (or someone else you feel comfortable around) know when things go wrong. We won’t know unless you tell us

• Friends
• Upper-year student
• Parents
• Professor
WHO CAN I ASK FOR HELP?

Getting help – Who to ask? How to ask?

Program Advisor(s)
- Program requirements, questions, concerns and/or changes
- Course planning for your future terms
- Course load, how to drop a course
- Academic support (not course specific)

Academic and Life Skills
- Student Success Office
  - Peer Success Coaching
  - Workshops

Social
- Environment Peer Mentors
- Waterloo Undergraduate Student Association (WUSA)
- Student Association of International Development (SAID)

Wellness
- Counselling Services
- Health Services
- Athletics Recreation Programs and Clubs
SEEK BALANCE

- More work does not always create better results
- Research in creativity tells us that best thinking comes during breaks in work
- Schedule time for fun
- This is the only time in your life that you will be surrounded by people your age, with similar interests and comparable schedules
- Explore those things you enjoy – school/life balance is important!
TIPS FOR SUCCESS

- **Quest**
  - Course enrollment, final grades, tuition
- **Email**
  - Staying connected
- **Portal**
  - Staying informed
- **LEARN**
  - Online course content
STUDENTS WHO MANAGE THE TRANSITION

- Create a network of friends and stay connected in their virtual community
- Balance school work and leisure
- Seek out information when they have questions
- Attend classes, labs, tutorials and office hours
- Know their course requirements and faculty policies
  - Talk to friends, family or seek out resources to talk
  - about their struggles and successes
HOW CAN MANAGING MY LIFE AND SCHOOL HELP?

- Helps you to break down tasks into smaller more manageable chunks
- Decreases procrastination – smaller tasks, more often
- Increases motivation to get started on your tasks earlier
- Helps you to balance multiple priorities during busy times
- Decreases STRESS!
- Increases SLEEP!
- Increases PRODUCTIVITY!
WHAT QUESTIONS DO YOU HAVE?