

Swinburne Commons

Transcript



Title: Student learning assistance for students (LAS Series)

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Year: 2016

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Ali: Hi my name is Ali, and yes, as you can see, I am a Student Learning Advisor in the Learning Academic Skills Centre.

Jacqui: My name is Jacqui. I'm a second year politics student at Swinburne. I've been with LAS for a year now as a student adviser. We work with students one on one. They bring whatever assignment they need help with or any questions that they have, and we give them one on one help.

Ali: Usually, there are a lot of international students coming up. And I guess that's because, for them, it's a whole new system, going through the assignments and plagiarism problems. But, yes, we do get local students as well.

Jacqui: We see everybody. International exchange students, domestic students who just want to make sure that they've answered the question and that everything is OK with their assignments. The sorts of things that students come to see us about is generally, in the end, related to reassurance. We also have grammatical structure, and writing skills, and essay planning, and those kinds of things. We certainly get questions about that.

Ali: Plagiarism, about referencing tools, and they also come just to ask us about their English or whether they're on the right track.

Jacqui: If a student requires more involved help, we advise them to make an appointment with the LAS teachers.

Ali: Yeah, I would say that people should actually use the services of LAS because, first of all, it's free advice. And you can come up anytime you want and you'll get a lot of good help. And not just help with your assignments, you might get some tips and tricks to do well in your exams as well, and your other assignments.

Jacqui: There's a certain peer support that I think only students can offer each other, and we are starting to build a really great team at LAS. The benefits for me as an SLA is to actually get to talk to other students, to interact with students from all over Swinburne, from all different faculties, and from all over the world.

Ali: As an SLA, I've benefited a lot, especially with my own assignments. And as a group, especially with group assignments, because sometimes it's that my group members do not understand some requirements of the assignments. And I just pop in and say, OK, you have to do this and you have to do that. And yes, that helps me a lot in my own studies and improving my own English. And most of all that when I read other people's work and help them with that, I get to learn a lot from their own work. And this helps me improve my own teaching skills, I would say. You just find it good to help someone, especially with people who are quite stressed out coming to a new environment. It's quite satisfying. OK, so I can help this person with this problem. I'm actually capable of that.

Jacqui: Anybody who's looking to be an SLA should definitely get in contact with LAS. It's a really great experience. You get to meet a lot of good people, and it keeps your focus and energy on campus at university. So if you want to meet more people, and it looks great on your resume, get in contact.