Spring 2021 Workshops & Services

Most Student Learning Commons workshops, including webinar recordings viewed online, are eligible for inclusion on your Co-Curricular Record. To receive Co-Curricular credits, fill out the Webinar Reflection Form for CCR.

For more information on the CCR, visit: www.sfu.ca/students/get-involved/recognition/co-curricular-record.html

The Student Learning Commons will be offering virtual workshops throughout the semester. Workshops will be offered live at the dates and times listed below. After the live session, webinar recordings are available to view at: https://www.lib.sfu.ca/about/branches-depts/slc/offers/slc-workshops/webinar-recordings

Kick Start Your Academic Success—Online!
Thursday to Saturday, January 7 to January 9, at 3:30pm — 5:30pm, Webinar via Zoom
Invitation to join the Zoom webinars will be provided to registrants
Do you want to learn proven strategies and effective tips to succeed in your courses? Are you feeling concerned about the unique challenges of learning online? This three-part workshop series is specifically designed to help undergraduate students kick start their remote learning success! Whether you are a current student, just coming from high school, transferring from college, or returning after some years away, you won't want to miss this FREE three-part academic success workshop offered by the Student Learning Commons to help you kick start your (online) semester!

Top 5 Academic Success Strategies
Wednesday, January 13, 11:30am — 12:20pm, Webinar via Zoom
Please check the online workshop registration page for the link to join this live session
Do you want to learn how to succeed in your online courses? This workshop is for you! In 50-minutes we will cover the basics of effective time management, reading, studying and online learning. It will be a great investment in your time, and will give you the confidence you need to succeed academically online. This webinar may be recorded for later use.

How I Succeeded in Online Courses
Thursday, January 14, 11:30am — 12:20pm, Webinar via Zoom
Please check the online workshop registration page for the link to join this live session
Do you want to develop better strategies to use in remote or online courses? A panel of successful students will tell their stories in this webinar on how they succeeded in their online courses! They will share their best advice to help you succeed too, and there will be time for questions. This webinar may be recorded for later use.

Go to workshops.lib.sfu.ca to sign up and explore more workshops
EAL WORKSHOP SERIES

Attend all sessions.

Academic Writing for Graduate Students
Tuesdays at 10:30am—11:20am & Thursdays at 2:30pm — 3:20pm, January 13 to February 11,
Webinar via Zoom & invitation to join the Bb Collaborate (Canvas) will be provided to registrants
This webinar series is targeted at international students with limited experience writing academic English, “proficient users” with a dominant language other than English, and students whose dominant language is English. It is equally concerned with developing academic writers as it is improving academic texts. The webinars move from the micro (vocabulary, verbs, paraphrasing) to the macro (underlying structures and patterns of development in scientific writing).

Academic Writing and Grammar for Multilingual Learners (EAL)
Wednesdays at 7:00pm — 9:00pm, January 20 to March 31, Webinar via Bb Collaborate (Canvas)
Invitation to join the Bb Collaborate (Canvas) and webinars will be provided to registrants
This seminar-style workshop series combines grammar for academic purposes, critical thinking, and academic writing for university. The main writing task is to produce a self-report (narrative) that stimulates participants to restructure their understanding of the nexus between language, culture, and identity. Students will complete reading, writing, and grammar tasks, all of which will be used to provide personalized feedback. Open to undergraduate students only.

Study Strategies that Work!
Friday, January 15, 10:30am — 11:20am, Webinar via Zoom
Please check the online workshop registration page for the link to join this live session
Do you want to optimize the effectiveness of the time you devote to studying? Come learn which study strategies are most strongly supported by research, and how to maximize your focus while studying. This webinar may be recorded for later use.

Writing Without Procrastination
Saturday, January 16, 11:00am — 12:00pm, Webinar via Bb Collaborate (Canvas)
Please check the online workshop registration page for the link to join this live session
This session takes a time management approach to the writing process. It is intended to help you break your writing up into steps and get started. It will also introduce useful writing tools such as the assignment calculator and the pomodoro technique. Webinars will be 20-30 minutes, with the remaining time for open discussion. This webinar may be recorded for later use.

Time Management in 6 Steps
Monday, January 18, 3:30pm — 4:20pm, Webinar via Zoom
Please check the online workshop registration page for the link to join this live session
In this session situated in the context of remote learning and the COVID pandemic, you will learn more about the six steps to effective time management: Reflect, Prioritize, Plan ahead with systems, Manage large projects, (Mostly) Stick to your plans, and Sleep. This webinar may be recorded for later use.
Note-Taking for Reading and Online Lectures  
Thursday, January 19, 10:30am — 11:20am, Webinar via Zoom  
Please check the online workshop registration page for the link to join this live session  
Many students experience challenges with note-taking such as keeping up with their lectures and selecting main ideas to write down from their readings. Effective note-taking serves many purposes, is a skill that can be learned, and is built through practice. Join us to level up your note-taking. This webinar may be recorded.

Let’s Talk!  
Wednesdays at 2:30pm — 3:20pm, January 20 to March 31, Webinar via Zoom  
Please check the online workshop registration page for the link to join this live session  
This weekly workshop gives students for whom English is an additional language an opportunity outside of class to improve their English conversation skills, learn strategies for academic success, and have fun meeting people. Participants will develop their conversation and listening skills through a variety of topics, such as stereotypes, slang and idioms, social media, Canadian and global culture, presentation skills, pronunciation, and story-telling.

STRUCTURING IDEAS THROUGH GRAMMAR WORKSHOP SERIES  
Attend any workshop or the whole series.  
This webinar series looks beyond the sentence to the ways grammar structures paragraphs and longer texts.

Information Flow  
Wednesday, January 20, 5:00pm — 6:00pm, Webinar via Zoom  
Tuesday, March 23, 10:30am — 11:20am, Webinar via Zoom  
Please check the online workshop registration page for the link to join this live session  
Learn how to organize information so that it flows from one idea and sentence to the next by using the principles of theme and rheme.

Controlling the Theme  
Wednesday, January 27, 5:00pm — 6:00pm, Webinar via Zoom  
Tuesday, March 30, 10:30am — 11:20am, Webinar via Zoom  
Please check the online workshop registration page for the link to join this live session  
Learn how to use various grammatical resources to control the theme and move information into the old and new position.

Paragraph Patterns 1  
Wednesday, February 3, 5:00pm — 6:00pm, Webinar via Zoom  
Tuesday, April 6, 10:30am — 11:20am, Webinar via Zoom  
Please check the online workshop registration page for the link to join this live session  
Learn how to use the linking pattern to make new ideas old and familiar to give a paragraph a sense of gradual development, and the repeated theme pattern to define, explain, or analyze complex concepts.

Paragraph Patterns 2  
Wednesday, February 10, 5:00pm — 6:00pm, Webinar via Zoom  
Tuesday, April 13, 10:30am — 11:20am, Webinar via Zoom  
Please check the online workshop registration page for the link to join this live session  
Learn how to use the super-theme pattern in paragraphs when describing complex systems and ideas, and the theme preview pattern to develop a longer texts than single paragraphs.
The Plurilingual Café

Thursdays at 11:30am — 12:20pm, January 21 to April 1, Webinar via Zoom
Please check the online workshop registration page for the link to join this live session

This weekly workshop recognizes and celebrates the rich plurality of EAL students' everyday language practices and interactions. Tasks are designed to support student learning by fostering intercultural awareness among the participants, offering opportunities to learn more about each other’s languages and cultures, and by creating spaces for the use of languages other than English as tools for learning.

Improve Your Concentration and Reading Effectiveness

Thursday, January 21, 1:30pm — 2:20pm, Webinar via Zoom
Please check the online workshop registration page for the link to join this live session

Do you drift off while reading and find that you don’t retain much? Or do you get distracted easily in lectures or while trying to study? Join this workshop to hear how you can read effectively and improve your concentration. This webinar may be recorded for later use.

How to Succeed in Quantitative Courses

Friday, January 22, 10:30am — 11:20am, Webinar via Zoom
Please check the online workshop registration page for the link to join this live session

Are university-level quantitative courses harder than you thought? Attend this workshop, developed by a college math instructor, to learn how to gain the deep understanding needed to solve even the trickiest exam problem. This webinar may be recorded for later use.

Strategies for Multimodal Writing

Wednesday, January 27, 7:00pm — 8:00pm, Webinar via Bb Collaborate (Canvas)
Please check the online workshop registration page for the link to join this live session

This session will introduce you to a number of different writing modes including blogging, podcasting, and webcasting. We will focus on the principles that are unique to writing for each of these modalities, as well as on the aspects of writing that apply across the board. This webinar may be recorded for later use.

Giving Effective Online Presentations

Friday, January 29, 10:30am — 11:20am, Webinar via Zoom
Please check the online workshop registration page for the link to join this live session

Are you giving an online presentation this term? Strong presentations are made up of 3 components - content, visuals and delivery. Learn strategies to make your content stand out, your visuals resonate, and your delivery impress. This webinar may be recorded for later use.

Working Effectively in Online Groups

Friday, February 5, 10:30am — 11:20am, Webinar via Zoom
Please check the online workshop registration page for the link to join this live session

Do you dread group projects? Learn how to create a positive team experience remotely by planning ahead, leveraging the strengths of each group member, setting ground rules, and learning how to deal productively. This webinar may be recorded for later use.
Successful (Online) Exam Writing
  Wednesday, February 10, 9:30am — 10:20am, Webinar via Zoom
  Thursday, April 1, 3:30pm — 4:20pm, Webinar via Zoom
  Please check the online workshop registration page for the link to join this live session

Get ready for your upcoming exams. This workshop is organized around evidence-based research on exam preparation, as well as a Summer 2020 survey about the most common types of online exams among SFU Undergraduates (1. forced order multiple choice and 2. Open book) and students' most common concerns: running out of time, exam anxiety, and technical issues. This webinar may be recorded for later use.

Argumentative Essays: Templates to Strengthen your Writing
  Wednesday, February 10, 12:30pm — 1:20pm, Webinar via Bb Collaborate (Canvas)
  Please check the online workshop registration page for the link to join this live session

Effective argumentation is a core requirement of many writing assignments across the disciplines. Yet it isn't always clear what an academic argument is or how you should write one. In this 50-minute session, you'll learn the particular rules governing academic argumentation. This workshop will also introduce a number of templates that you can use to clearly and effectively structure and defend your written arguments. Webinars will be 20-30 minutes, with the remaining time for open discussion. This webinar may be recorded for later use.

Critical Reading and Thinking
  Thursday, February 11, 11:30am — 12:20pm, Webinar via Zoom
  Please check the online workshop registration page for the link to join this live session

When students develop their individual capacity for critical thinking and reading, they are less likely to feel the pressure to engage in cheating or academic dishonesty. Professors and TAs often talk about the need to think critically but few actually explain what critical thinking is or how to do it. We will define critical thinking and how you can train yourself to ask meaningful and relevant questions that promote critical thinking when you're reading. This webinar may be recorded for later use.

Writing a Research Paper
  Saturday, February 27, 11:00am — 12:00pm, Webinar via Bb Collaborate (Canvas)
  Please check the online workshop registration page for the link to join this live session

So, you have to write a research paper. This session will introduce you to steps to help you effectively organize and communicate the research you have conducted. It will also introduce tips for writing a clear thesis for a research-based paper. Webinars will be 20-30 minutes, with the remaining time for open discussion. This webinar may be recorded for later use.

Managing Procrastination in Your Online Courses
  Thursday, March 4, 11:30am — 12:20pm, Webinar via Zoom
  Please check the online workshop registration page for the link to join this live session

Procrastination is something that most students do. Today our learning environments are online, with stress, isolation and a lack of structure common. We are all struggling to stay productive! Join us in breaking the isolation and talking about how to manage procrastination even under the most adverse circumstances. This workshop will help you understand the cycle of procrastination, and then offer you strategies on how you can get moving and productive again. This webinar may be recorded for later use.
Ethical Source Incorporation
Saturday, March 13, 11:00am — 12:00pm, Webinar via Bb Collaborate (Canvas)
Please check the online workshop registration page for the link to join this live session
Come learn how to ethically summarize, quote, and paraphrase from your sources. Sure, this workshop will help you to avoid plagiarism, but more importantly, it will also help you to deepen your understanding of your source materials, and demonstrate that understanding in your own writing. Webinars will be 20-30 minutes, with the remaining time for open discussion. This webinar may be recorded for later use.

Hot Tips for Revising
Saturday, March 27, 11:00am — 12:00pm, Webinar via Bb Collaborate (Canvas)
Please check the online workshop registration page for the link to join this live session
Congratulations--you've drafted your paper! What's next? This workshop overviews a technique of revising higher-order concerns, then looking at the finer details of your piece. You'll also learn more about common errors that can trip up even strong writers. Webinars will be 20-30 minutes, with the remaining time for open discussion. This webinar may be recorded for later use.
Additional Writing, Learning, and EAL Services
Available throughout the semester.

Virtual Consultations
January 11 to April 16, Specific times available online including evenings and weekends, WCOnline
Please visit the SLC website for instructions to book an appointment
Consultations are your opportunity for feedback at any stage of an English or French writing assignment, or to develop and improve strategies and skills for more effective academic writing. Students can also discuss study strategies, such as time management, exam preparation, note-taking, and presentation skills with a fellow student who has been there.

Conversation Partners
January 18 to April 2, Specific times available online, Zoom / Bb Collaborate (Canvas)
Please visit the SLC website for instructions to register for this program
The Conversation Partners Program is for English as an Additional Language (EAL) undergraduate and graduate students who wish to be paired with a student volunteer to practice and improve their conversational English. Peer Educators are a diverse group of students from a variety of linguistic, cultural, and discipline-specific backgrounds who are committed to helping you speak English more confidently, improve the quality of your learning experiences at SFU, feel better connected to the university community, and take control of your own learning.

Academic English Coaching
January 18 to April 16, Specific times available online, Zoom / Bb Collaborate (Canvas)
Please visit the SLC website for instructions to register for this program
The Academic English Coaching program offers free, one-to-one English language coaching to help students for whom English is an additional language improve their academic English skills. The program is designed to help you identify and address areas that need extra work, set goals, and work towards achieving them throughout the semester. You will meet with an English language specialist a minimum of three times per semester (in total a maximum of 5 times) while working independently on a personalized academic English learning plan.

Go to learningcommons.sfu.ca to sign up and explore more SLC services