Coming into uni as a first year student can be daunting. When I started studying at UNSW I was taken aback by the change in pace, learning style, and the sheer number of people around. In due time, thanks to the guidance of older students and helpful staff I settled in and took advantage of countless opportunities. There is no shortage of things you can get involved in, and you may even find that by the end of your degree you wish you had more time!

This guide aims to be a starting place, providing essential info on academics, important contact details, and tips on how to get the most out of your first year. Use this guide as a springboard to find out more information on something you're interested in, like Student Projects and Societies. UNSW Engineering provides a diverse array of opportunities and these are just two.

There is no shortage of opportunities outside of Engineering either—whether it comes from Arc (via their volunteering programs, clubs, or sports) or in the broader uni community. By getting involved you can meet new people and make lifelong friends whilst having fun and growing as a person.

Everyone goes through this experience as a first year student so don’t be afraid to ask for help. The uni journey is what you make of it so dive right in and make the most of this year!

Good luck and go conquer!

Andy
5th year Chemical Engineering student and Student Ambassador
Creating your timetable

Enrolling involves not only selecting which courses (i.e., subjects) to enrol in, but also which times to attend for each of your lectures, tutorials and labs. Sometimes you will have a long list of times to choose from and sometimes there will be only one choice. You enrol in courses via my.unsw.edu.au

Moodle

Moodle is an online learning platform that is used to deliver your courses. You will access lecture recordings, tutorial notes and course materials through this site throughout your degree.

https://student.unsw.edu.au/moodle-support

The Nucleus: Student Hub

The Nucleus provides essential services not specific to the Faculty of Engineering, such as your student ID card and program deferrals. For more information:

https://nucleus.unsw.edu.au/

Engineering Student Services

The Engineering Student Services is located on Level 1, in the Ainsworth Building J17 (above Coffee on Campus). Opening hours and online enquiry forms can be found here:

https://www.engineering.unsw.edu.au/students/how-can-we-help/engineering-student-support-services

FAQs:

https://www.engineering.unsw.edu.au/students/how-can-we-help/faqs

Useful terminology/lingo

Program = Degree for example Bachelor of Engineering(Hons)
Plan = Specialisation - E.G Mechatronic Engineering or Aerospace Engineering
Course = Subject – E.G MATH1131 or PHYS1121

Checkout the UNSW Handbook

This is your guide to your program, specialisation and courses throughout your degree. It specifies which courses you must complete, and if applicable, in which year. It also provides information on electives and general education subjects on offer, as well as other requirements such as industrial training.

https://www.handbook.unsw.edu.au

Are you a Flexible First Year Student?

For more info go to:

http://www.engineering.unsw.edu.au/flexible-first-year-program

First Year Electives for all first-year students:

In your first-year you can choose some electives. The list of first year electives can be found here:

http://www.engineering.unsw.edu.au/study-with-us/first-year-engineering-electives-list

Creating your timetable

Enrolling involves not only selecting which courses (i.e., subjects) to enrol in, but also which times to attend for each of your lectures, tutorials and labs. Sometimes you will have a long list of times to choose from and sometimes there will be only one choice. You enrol in courses via my.unsw.edu.au

YOU ARE ALWAYS EXPECTED TO MANAGE YOUR OWN ENROLMENT AND CLASS SCHEDULE.

Plan your next terms using online tool Bojangles. Bojangles allows you to drag, drop and move around class times to make the perfect timetable for you -whether that means less days at uni, sleeping in, or more breaks within classes.

http://tdransfield.net/utilities/bojangles

Useful Apps

Timeweave allows you to import your UNSW class timetable and see all your friends' timetables. It's handy for when you want to schedule lunch/coffee with friends, or just have an hour free between classes and want some company.

Lost on Campus provides a map of campus buildings and room, as well as essential amenities like microwaves. A must have for students unfamiliar with the campus.

TAKE TIME TO TIMETABLE!

I ALWAYS LOVED AFTERNOON CLASSES TO AVOID THE RIDICULOUSLY LONG BUS LINE IN THE MORNINGS.

Aileen Lu
4th year Chemical Engineering Student

Blueprint working on their Mars Rover
UNSW SERVICES

UNSW Counselling and Psychological Services (CAPS)

- [http://www.counselling.unsw.edu.au/](http://www.counselling.unsw.edu.au/)
  - The UNSW CAPS Services provides a free and confidential service to all students. A range of services are offered:
    - Counselling for individuals
    - Motivational support
    - Seminars and workshops to enhance student success
    - Psychological health resources
    - Personal skills development

  **Location**: Level 2, East Wing, Quadrangle (Map Ref E17)
  **Tel**: +61 (2) 9385 5418  
  **Email**: counselling@unsw.edu.au  
  **Opening Hours**: Monday to Friday, 9:00am - 5:00pm

UNSW Careers and Employment

- [http://www.careers.unsw.edu.au/](http://www.careers.unsw.edu.au/)
  - Careers and Employment provide services to assist students in the development of career management skills. These include workshops, online job search facilities, careers expos and one-on-one assistance to help with resumes and interview techniques. Sign up for their free fortnightly e-Newslist service for upcoming events and current job opportunities.

  **Location**: Level 2, East Wing, Quadrangle (Map Ref E15)
  **Tel**: +61 (2) 9385 5429  
  **Email**: careers@unsw.edu.au  
  **Opening Hours**: Monday - Friday, 9am - 5pm

Student Wellbeing Resources

- [https://student.unsw.edu.au/wellbeing](https://student.unsw.edu.au/wellbeing)
  - Here you can find support if you need help with your personal life, getting your academic success on track or just want to know how to stay safe.
    - Medical health services
    - Self-help resources and guides
    - LGBTQI+ support
    - Emergency Contacts
    - Campus security
    - Harassment and discrimination reporting
    - Legal advice

  **Find other useful resources here**: [https://student.unsw.edu.au/support](https://student.unsw.edu.au/support)

Disability Services

  - If you have a disability, medical condition, learning disability or are dealing with personal circumstances that affect your study, Disability Services may be able to provide you with assistance.

  Disability Advisers can arrange to put in place services and educational adjustments to make things more manageable so that you are able to complete your course requirements.

  **Location**: Ground Floor, John Goodsell Building (Map Ref F20)  
  **Tel**: +61 (2) 9385 4734  
  **Email**: disabilities@unsw.edu.au  
  **Opening Hours**: Monday - Friday, 10.00am – 4.00pm

EngScope newsletter

Every second Tuesday during term time you’ll receive the EngScope newsletter, brought to you by the UNSW Engineering Society. The newsletter includes lots of useful content like:

- Lots of events to get involved with
- Internship and job opportunities
- A student blog and news article
- Special announcements from UNSW and the Faculty of Engineering

**REMEMBER**: EngScope newsletter will be sent to your zID student email. Check it out.

Check your emails!

Your student email is where all UNSW communication will be sent to including notifications from your lecturers and communications from the Faculty of Engineering. It is recommended that you check your student email on a regular basis. You can access instructions on how to access your student email can be seen via the following link:

- [https://student.unsw.edu.au/emails](https://student.unsw.edu.au/emails)

Website

- [https://www.engineering.unsw.edu.au/students](https://www.engineering.unsw.edu.au/students)

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Dinesh Ratnam
1st year Aerospace Engineering student

**JOIN FACEBOOK GROUPS FOR ALL YOUR COURSES! GREAT PLACE FOR HELP TIPS AND MAYBE EVEN ANSWERS.**

**ENGSCOPE! DON’T IGNORE THIS EMAIL!! IT’S YOUR DIRECT SOURCE OF ALL NEWS ENGINEERING, JOBS, AND INTERNSHIPS!!**
Student competitions that are a real ChallENG
Got a competitive side? Engage in student projects such as AIAA UNSW Rocketry, Competitive Robotics and UNSW Illuminate and work in multi-disciplinary teams with other engineers to achieve competition goals. Experience added benefits of academic partnership, access to leading technologies, enhanced learning experiences and the opportunity to make lifelong friendships, plus travel internationally and develop career networks.

JOIN THE CHALLENG PROGRAM
challeng.unsw.edu.au

Choose Your ChallENG and start to change the world!
From your second year at UNSW you can join The ChallENG Program. This exciting project-based learning program has more than 20 hands-on projects to choose from. ChallENG will prepare you for your future career by providing a long term and interdisciplinary approach to learning, which will give you practical and technical experience and expand your professional skills!
You will get real world experience and be connected to researchers & industry, while also getting your deserved academic credit!
Learn more.

EARN ACADEMIC CREDIT OR INDUSTRIAL TRAINING

The ChallENG Program is an elective course we encourage students to save their first-year elective for their second or third years.

JOIN ONE OF THESE EXCITING PROJECTS AND SECURE YOUR FUTURE CAREER!

NEED ADVICE ON MAPPING YOUR DEGREE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CHALLENG PROGRAM CLICK HERE

There are fours pillars in The ChallENG Program to explore!

Vertically Integrated Projects
ChallENG yourself to work on research that changes the world
Curious about research? Immerse yourself in a unique project-based research opportunity where you can apply what you have learnt in your degree to real-world engineering research challenges. Experience innovation in action in a multi-disciplinary team with other like-minded engineers and gain highly sought after technical and professional skills that you can apply to your engineering career in the future.

More

Academic Impact
Help solve a ChallENG for a community in need
A little goes a long way! Through projects such as Engineering World Health and Impact Engineering you can help people and communities in need. While giving back, you’ll also experience the added benefits of academic mentors, amazing learning experiences and of course the opportunity to make lifelong friends.

More

Social Impact

AT A GLANCE
The courses in The ChallENG Program are for credit electives.
The course codes are: ENGG2600, ENGG3600 and ENGG4600
The courses run across three consecutive terms and: T1, 2 and 3 (2 UoC per Term) for a total of 6 UoC at the end, which enables students to extend their project-based learning experience beyond a single semester. If a student wishes, they can overload to 20 UoC per term.

You must complete all three terms of the course and satisfy all assessment requirements as set out by the course coordinator to receive full course credit. Partial credits will not be given. Check out more benefits of joining The ChallENG Program here.

More

The Maker Games
Work with industry to solve their ChallENG
Up for a ChallENG? Experience an exclusive, prototyping competition where you can work with other students to solve real world challenges currently faced by industry. Develop your skills in design thinking and product development by bringing an innovative solution to life through a working prototype. The winning Maker Games team get an international trip!

More

No Exams
The projects in The ChallENG Program are assessment based.
Want to make new friends, gain new skills and work as part of a team? There are hundreds of student societies at UNSW to get involved in! Below is a list of the student societies for the Faculty of Engineering and its schools. Like them on Facebook and get involved in their programs and events!

Erisha Chand
2nd year Mechatronic Engineering Student

CHECK OUT AND JOIN ALL THE AVAILABLE SOCIETIES, STUDENT PROJECTS AND CLUBS DURING O-WEEK! A GREAT WAY TO MAKE SOME FRIENDS, DO SOME NETWORKING AND GET INVOLVED OUTSIDE OF YOUR DEGREE. MY ADVICE WOULD BE TO JOIN A BUNCH IN YOUR 1ST YEAR AND THEN YOU CAN COMMIT TO A FEW AFTER YOUR TASTE TEST!

Erisha Chand
Zhelvan-Mechatronic Engineering Student
BECOME PART OF OUR COMMUNITY

Women in Engineering DevelopME Program

Join now at unsw.to/wiedm

Our Women in Engineering DevelopME Program provides female engineering students with the opportunity to make life-long friends and develop the skills and confidence you need to kickstart your career. You can also participate in volunteering and outreach activities such as leading engineering workshop or participating in My Story School Visits, where you are encouraged to share your experience in engineering with students from your old high school. You will also be invited to attend industry events where you can build relationships with working engineers from a variety of companies.

Women in Engineering Student Society (WIESoc)

facebook.com/wieunsw/

With more than 2500 members from a diverse range of engineering disciplines, WIESoc provides female engineering students with a broad range of events and activities to build friendships and develop skills while studying. These include a packed social calendar (with games nights, cocktail events and annual WIESoc Ball), a sought-after mentorship program and multiple industry events from speed networking to design challenges.

Upcoming Women in Engineering Events

WIESoc hold many events throughout the term, with a great mix of industry and social events. Come and join us for our upcoming events!

Watch out for upcoming events on the WIESoc Facebook Page

https://www.facebook.com/wiesoc/

Peer 2 Peer Mentoring Program

The Engineering Society’s Peer 2 Peer Mentoring Program, starting Term 1 each year, aims to help you make a smooth transition to university life and to assist with common enquiries that first year students ask. Mentees are usually matched with a mentor studying the same engineering plan and EngSoc hold fun events as part of the program like a board games night and an Amazing Race event. We strongly encourage all new engineering students to join the mentoring program and make the most of what it has to offer. Participating in the program is also a great way to make friends and get the answers to all your questions!

Keep an eye on your student email and on Facebook for how to get involved.

EngSoc Volunteer Development Program

The EngSoc Volunteer Development Program provides a fantastic, low-commitment way to jumpstart your uni involvement. With workshops on important soft skills like communication and teamwork and flexible volunteering, you can give back to the community with fellow engineering students across all years and schools.

UNSW Student Advantage

https://student.unsw.edu.au/advantage

UNSW Advantage accredits over 450 volunteer and professional development opportunities available here at UNSW. Check out all the different opportunities to get involved! And the best part, participating in these programs will ensure what you learn is listed on your AHEGS when you graduate. All of these experiences help you develop yourself and gain the skills and confidence to be the best you can be.

Like and follow the UNSW Engineering Society to find out how to get involved!

facebook.com/groups/unswengsoc/

SPECIAL EVENTS TO GET YOU STARTED

Industry Mentoring Program

The Industry Mentoring Program provides a unique opportunity for students to directly connect with industry representatives in a mentor-mentee program. Industry mentors will interact with student mentees to provide them with a deeper insight into professional environments and their future careers.

Applications Open Term 1

wiesoc.com/industry-mentoring-program


Karen Kuan
4th year Civil Engineering and Architecture student

“THROUGHOUT MY INVOLVEMENT IN THE WIE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, I CONTINUE TO BE IMPRESSED BY THE EFFORT UNSH PUTS INTO ENCOURAGING WOMEN TO PURSUE ENGINEERING, ALLOWING US TO GRASP NEW AND INTERESTING OPPORTUNITIES THAT EQUIP US WITH SKILLS FOR THE FUTURE.”

Brian Au
3rd year Civil Engineering student

“YES! WHETHER IT’S GOING TO THAT FIRST SOCIAL EVENT WITHOUT KNOWING ANYONE OR VOLUNTEERING FOR A SOCIETY, JUST SAY YES TO EVERY OPPORTUNITY YOU CAN IF YOU DON’T FIND A PASSION, YOU’LL CERTAINLY MAKE FRIENDS AND CONNECTIONS ALONG THE WAY.”
COFFEE LOVERS! BRING A KEEP-CUP TO SAVE 50 AND THE ENVIRONMENT AT MOST CAFES ON CAMPUS.

TEXTBOOKS COST AN ARM AND A LEG. UNLESS YOUR LECTURER SPECIFICALLY ADVISES, DON’T BUY TEXTBOOKS BEFORE YOU START UNI! ALSO, ALWAYS CHECK FOR LEGAL ONLINE COPIES BEFORE HITTING UP THE BOOKSHOP.

Isabella Notarpietro
1st year Chemical Engineering student

HANDY HINTS

How to get to Uni:
1. An express bus service (891) runs from Central Station to UNSW.
2. The bus line in the morning is ridiculous! Plan for it or organise afternoon classes.
3. If you’re driving to UNSW, make sure you arrive early to get a parking spot near campus and minimise the walk. Parking at gate 14 is expensive and a parking fine is worse!
4. Trip view app: An absolute must for all commuters. Find in the app store.
5. Follow the link to get details for other buses and transportation options: gettingstarted.unsw.edu.au/maps-and-public-transport

Campus Map:
1. UNSW is big, confusing and busy... the campus map is your best friend. Download and highlight your classes before day 1! Some of us even highlighted what looks to be a suitable path.
2. O-week campus tours run by the Yellow Shirt leaders are a sure-fire way to get familiar with campus!
3. You must download lost on campus (app) before day 1!! Map out the route to your class beforehand, so you’re not walking in late in front of everyone.

Campus Map: http://fmtoolbox.unsw.edu.au/comms/KensingtonCampus.pdf

Student support groups
This is a BIG one (trust us!). Whilst your lectures are great, it’s your classmates that get us through each course.
1. Join the Facebook page AND group chat for each of your courses. Here you can ask questions, get reminded of due dates, get solutions and hints for quizzes and even get week by week revision notes from some of the best and brightest!

Food:
UNSW has no shortage of food and coffee joints. If you’re on lower campus, Stellini Pasta Bar offers a wide range of tasty pastas, or you can visit Guzman Y Gomez for a burrito. On upper campus, Subway and Boost offer familiarity, or you can check out Southern Wok for a wide range of noodle and rice dishes. The Mathews food court offer a variety of cuisines from Indian to Japanese.
If you’re in the middle, visit Q-Lounge to mix and match your own lunch (there are always lines during lunch time!), or check out the daily deals at the Whitehouse. After class you can hit the Roundhouse for happy hour drinks with your mates.

WH Smith
The one-stop-shop for all stationary, lab needs and workbooks! Prices aren’t too bad either!
Located at the Quad (next to Q-Lounge) or at the top of the Basser Steps (near Boost).

IGA:
Just near Gate 2 off High Street, under the university terraces, IGA has all the snack you could need.

Other Services
We have banks, an Australia Post outlet, pharmacy, STA Travel and the UNSW Health Service.
See the full list of food and retail outlets on campus here: https://bacs.unsw.edu.au/property/retail

STUDY HINTS!

University life is busy. Hedge your bets and maximise your marks!

1. Every percentage counts: DO NOT slack on any weighted work. Whether it is an 8% maple coding test or a 1% weekly MMAN1300 quiz, do it and do it well. It might seem tedious but come end of term exams, having the comfort of an extra 15% you’ve grinded for during the term not only reduces stress but will often get you over the line if is going to be a close pass!

2. “Compulsory” attendance: attendance IS compulsory. It doesn’t matter if you technically don’t have to attend the class to pass, don’t be silly. Anything can happen in that final exam and you’ll be livid if your over confidence cost you the ability to sit a supp!

3. Become a demonstrator: Being a demonstrator in your later years not only looks great on the resume but also puts a little extra cash in your pocket! Your lecturers will tell you about these opportunities when they arise.

4. Study Buddies: Make your best effort to make some study friends! It’ll help you more than you could imagine.

COFFEE LOVERS! BRING A KEEP-CUP TO SAVE 50 AND THE ENVIRONMENT AT MOST CAFES ON CAMPUS.

TEXTBOOKS COST AN ARM AND A LEG. UNLESS YOUR LECTURER SPECIFICALLY ADVISES, DON’T BUY TEXTBOOKS BEFORE YOU START UNI! ALSO, ALWAYS CHECK FOR LEGAL ONLINE COPIES BEFORE HITTING UP THE BOOKSHOP.

Isabella Notarpietro
1st year Chemical Engineering student
JOIN Arc TODAY
arc.unsw.edu.au

With over 300 different Clubs & Societies to pick from, you’re spoilt for choice. EngSoc is your constituent society so be sure to check them out, and then venture from your comfort zone with something new like Adventurers Club, Debating Society or Engineers Without Borders.

Get moving! A healthy body leads to a healthy mind, and there are plenty of chances to get the blood pumping with Arc Sport. There are over 30 Sport Clubs, Social Sport on campus every afternoon, intervarsity glory at Nationals, She Can for the ladies and pick-up-and-play whenever you want.

Roundhouse is the home of good times all year round. Hit up UniBar for your classic engi-beers and stay later for live music and parties. There are huge prizes, delicious burgers, unmissable gigs every week and Arc Members get exclusive access to everything.

Give back to the community and ramp up your resume with volunteering. You can commit as much or as little time as you like to improving campus or undertaking a sustainable development project afar and abroad. Volunteering with Arc is a great way to meet people, feel the fuzzies and learn practical skills.

Sometimes this just don’t go to plan. If you suffer a misfortune that is related to a legal issue or university issue you can get in touch with Arc Legal & Advocacy. They’ll help you with the serious stuff like tenancy, contracts, employment and special consideration. Check out Arc Wellness for tips on self-care and helping others.

Being an Arc Member gets you heaps of perks throughout your university year. You’ll get discounts from retailers on campus, off campus and online. There’s free stationery, bike repairs, cheap trips around Sydney, free food and plenty more.
CONTACT US
WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU TO UNSW ENGINEERING.

Engineering Student Services
Room 104, Level 1, Building J17 (Ainsworth)
9.30am – 4.30pm Monday to Friday
Ph: +61 2 9385 8100

Submit an enquiry unsw.to/webforms

Join us on social media for all the latest news and updates

UNSW Engineering
unswengineering
https://www.engineering.unsw.edu.au/students