

PASS

PEER ASSISTED STUDY SESSIONS



What is PASS?

- student-led, by paid trained student facilitators
- student-run, using the energy and input from students who attend the timetabled sessions
- free and welcoming to ALL students in the course
- designed to assist students to tackle Uni through social and structured study sessions
- on campus in business hours
- online through Facebook groups 24 hours
- advertised in lectures and on CANVAS (online Learning Management Service)
- beginning in week 2

While PASS has been at RMIT for only 5+ years it has a highly regarded 30+yr international reputation. Based on the principles of inclusive teaching and transition pedagogy, PASS provides a formal and additional opportunity for students to connect with one another and learn how to be a successful student. PASS is targeted at difficult first year core courses where students can tap into the additional support for the academic demands as well as to assist with their transition to Uni life.

PASS is a program that encourages **CONNECTION, CONFIDENCE and CREATIVITY** for learning between students of varying knowledge levels in a more relaxed and casual environment than you may find in tutorials.

Each PASS session is run by students with specific training, known as facilitators. The PASS facilitators have been chosen because of their great people skills and their passion for the subject and group learning.

The idea is that these students will pass on their skills and enthusiasm about how to really make the most of studying for success and use creative fun activities to enable effective learning and sharing.

What goes on during PASS sessions?

A typical PASS session is an hour-long study session in a classroom on campus and might include:

- a review of the lecture and assigned readings
- group work and discussion
- problem-solving and critical thinking activities
- how to prepare for assignments and exams (including mock exams)
- discussion of key course concepts
- sharing of key learning skill tips

The focus in each of these sessions is for students to get to know one another so they might learn to learn together by pooling their ideas, understanding and experience.

How is PASS different from tutorials?

Where tutorials typically cover a specific set of work and assessments indicated in the subject outline, each PASS session has an agenda determined by the facilitator and students who attend that week.

	Tutorial	PASS
Session content	Predetermined by the tutor and course creator	Determined on the day according to what students want to cover
Learning environment	Classroom style. One person talks to many	Group discussion style. Many people talk to many people
Learning style	Sit and listen to tutor, do questions and take notes.	Discuss questions with fellow students, share and learn with your peers.
Atmosphere	Formal	Relaxed
Attendance	Must attend the session you have enrolled in	Can attend any session and more than one session per week.

Benefits of attending PASS



Attending PASS sessions can:

- help you tackle problems you cannot solve on your own
- give you a chance to pass on knowledge to other people
- meet new people in your course
- learn new ways of approaching problems
- help you achieve a higher final mark
- provide you with an environment where you can safely ask questions

Comparison of undergraduate final grade results in UOW PASS supported subjects 2003-2009

Wollongong University is the National Centre for PASS and has been gathering data on PASS for over 10 years: see their achievements [here](#):

Students who attend PASS regularly increase their marks by 5-10%

PASS Attendance	Average Final Mark	% Failure Rate
Students not enrolled in PASS	56.4	22.5%
Students attending 5 + PASS sessions	64	8.7%

Source: University of Wollongong is the National Centre for PASS and has been evaluating their PASS program since 2003. They have substantial proof that the program assists students who attend regularly i.e. more than 5 sessions by improving their marks by 10 percent.