Hello and welcome to the October newsletter!

October is another busy month with many students either starting or getting ready to start their UCAS application for 2024 university entry. There will be some information and tips for UCAS applicants in this instalment of the newsletter, along with links to some useful UCAS related drop-in sessions that will be hosted this month.

For new learners who are receiving this as their first monthly newsletter, welcome and thank you for choosing to study with us.

As well as posting useful information and news in our newsletter, we also post items of interest on our various social media channels; so if you haven't already done so follow us on Facebook and Instagram. There is also a Facebook Group just for learners called DistanceLearningCentre.com (Official) where you can get help and support from your fellow students.

UCAS applications can now be submitted for September 2024 entry

If you are applying to university for 2024, we strongly advise you complete your UCAS application as soon as possible, remember to use the advice on the UCAS application page in your learner account toolkit.

Remember to also visit the UCAS Deadlines page for all the key dates for your application.

If you are applying as a student of DistanceLearningCentre.com you will need to request a buzzword from your tutor, which will identify your application as being linked to DistanceLearningCentre.com.

In order to access the DistanceLearningCentre.com buzzword you must have completed and passed 6 Level 3 credits.

If you are applying as a DistanceLearningCentre.com student, you tutor will write your UCAS reference, but before they can do this you will need to complete a 'tutor info form'.
Final Reminder for Medical School Applicants

As a final reminder, the deadline for submitting your UCAS application if you want to study most courses in medicine (including veterinary medicine/science, and dentistry) is **16th October 2023 at 18:00**.

This is also the deadline if you are applying to study at Oxford or Cambridge.

Reminder about November Moderation 2023

No sooner does one moderation finish, the countdown for the next begins! The **November moderation** deadline is **Friday 27th October**.

This is when assessment work that has been marked by your tutor is checked by the Awarding Body, Ascentis. During this process, final grades are confirmed, and Diplomas are awarded. Certificates are then issued, and these should be with successful students in January.

Online Question & Answer Drop-ins

During weekly online drop-in sessions (which can be accessed from the 'My Courses' tab by selecting 'Webinars' and then 'Coming up'), our tutors will be on hand to answer general questions about your course or unit-specific questions about your assessments. There will be four such sessions taking place this month, as well as some UCAS-related drop-ins that you will find particularly useful. One of these will be hosted by an outreach representative from the School of Human and Life Sciences at the University of Huddersfield.

The online drop-ins coming up in **October** are:

- **Biology** - 7:30pm Wednesday 11th
- **New Student Drop-in** - 7:30pm on Tuesday 17th
- **UCAS Q&A** - 7:30pm Wednesday 18th
- **Counselling** - 7:30pm Monday 23rd
Your questions answered

This month's questions are:

**What is the purpose of tutor support and tutorials?**

Our answer:

Your tutor is your main point of contact for questions related to your course and your assessments. Tutors are able to answer questions via email but sometimes (perhaps as you are completing an assessment) you may have lots of questions or would like a more detailed conversation. At this point it is best to ask your tutor for a tutorial. A tutorial is just a chat between you and your tutor (which can be a Zoom call or phone call) where they can help with any questions you may have relating to assessments, university applications, planning for moderation or studying effectively.

**Why do we ask for weekly / regular contact from you?**

Our answer:

Your tutors like to hear from you every week so that they know how you are getting on with your studies and if you are having any problems. It is fine to tell your tutor that you haven’t made any progress on your studies as you are having a busy week – but then at least your tutor knows that you will be ok with your studies once you have time to complete your work. There can be lots of reasons why students don’t get in touch with their tutor and sometimes this can be because of a problem with the course that the tutor could help with – so they do keep emailing and calling until they hear from you!