

# What skills do I have?

**During your time at University, you will develop valuable, transferable academic, study and professional skills that will support your learning and future career.**

Academic skills are the skills you use on a daily basis as a student. So if you're wondering about what skills you already have or what you should focus on, check out our list and tips on how to improve them.



## Writing skills

Effective academic writing is more than just putting your thoughts on paper; it requires you to be precise, think critically, and use an academic style. You need to be able to communicate clearly, arrange information in a logical way, and back up your points with evidence. It's important to be clear, analyse things carefully, and have a structured approach.

More information: [aber.ac.uk/en/aberskills/writing-assignments](http://aber.ac.uk/en/aberskills/writing-assignments)



## Reading skills

Critical reading involves analysing and evaluating written materials like textbooks, articles and other academic resources. This includes assessing author goals, identifying biases, and evaluating the credibility of the provided evidence. The aim is to enhance your understanding and knowledge rather than simply memorising information. Take effective notes to organise and easily locate relevant information.

More information: [libguides.aber.ac.uk/home](http://libguides.aber.ac.uk/home)



## Critical thinking skills

In order to really understand and make sense of information, you have to work on your critical thinking skills. This involves questioning, examining evidence, and forming independent opinions and conclusions rather than accepting information at face value. Being critical involves more than just recounting information from lectures or literature. You will make judgements about evidence to form your own views and to present your views clearly.



## Notetaking skills

Taking notes has no absolute correct or incorrect approach. Nevertheless, it is advisable to maintain concise and to-the-point notes. Attempting to transcribe every detail offers no advantage; instead, your notes should capture the key concepts and significant points you've recognised.

More information: [aber.ac.uk/en/aberskills/writing-assignments/#notetaking](http://aber.ac.uk/en/aberskills/writing-assignments/#notetaking)



## Digital skills

Proficiency in using technology is essential for accessing information, collaborating with peers, and completing coursework. You can develop your digital skills with 1:1 appointments with your [Subject Librarians](#), borrowing library resources and attending various [skills workshops](#). This will help you enhance your knowledge and workplace skills.



## Referencing skills

You need to acknowledge other people's work in your own writing through referencing. Referencing is a skill you will develop the more you do it! Take some time reading the [Referencing and Plagiarism Awareness LibGuide](#) and follow your departmental referencing style guidance.



## Numeracy skills

Maths, stats and numeracy skills are relevant to many subject areas, not just maths and science courses. Numeracy skills are essential in most careers and are highly sought after by employers. [Maths drop-ins and 1:1 appointments](#) can help you to refresh and develop the skills required for your current course and beyond.



## Presentation skills

Presentations are a common form of assessment, as an individual or group activity. Delivering ideas with clarity and confidence helps boost confidence and deepens understanding of the subject. These skills are valuable for effectively communicating thoughts and when working in professional settings.

More information: [aber.ac.uk/en/aberskills/presentations](http://aber.ac.uk/en/aberskills/presentations)



## Communication skills

Good communication skills involve clear and concise expression in speaking and writing, as well as listening actively and working together with others. Group projects and working with others are common, so good communication plays a key role.



## Active listening skills

Active listening involves really focusing on what the speaker is saying and asking questions to make sure you understand clearly. Some helpful tips to keep in mind include taking notes, making connections, putting information together, and drawing conclusions.





## Research skills

From finding relevant sources and analysing them critically to putting all the information together, having strong research skills is key. You'll also need to evaluate and fact check the information you find: [libguides.aber.ac.uk/evaluating](http://libguides.aber.ac.uk/evaluating)  
And let's not forget about being able to navigate various databases, search engines, and citation styles - that's all part of having good research skills.



## Study skills

Effective studying varies for each person. It's crucial to discover your optimal time and method, whether it's last-minute cramming or scheduled sessions. Develop study skills by setting goals, creating a schedule, and utilising strategies like note-taking and self-testing. Find what suits you best.  
More information: [aber.ac.uk/en/aberskills/learningeffectively](http://aber.ac.uk/en/aberskills/learningeffectively)



## Time management skills

Managing your time is important at University. With different courses, assignments, and activities, staying on top of everything can be a bit of a challenge. Stay organised by setting priorities, creating a schedule, and breaking tasks into smaller chunks. This approach makes it easier to handle your workload.  
More information: [aber.ac.uk/en/aberskills/timemanagement](http://aber.ac.uk/en/aberskills/timemanagement)



**I want to improve these skills.  
Where can I find support?**

## Go to AberSkills!

**AberSkills** can help you identify, develop and refine your skills with:

- skills workshops
- 1:1 appointments
- drop-in sessions
- useful advice, guidance and information
- support material and much more!

Scan the QR code or visit the link below for more information.



[www.aber.ac.uk/en/aberskills/](http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/aberskills/)

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