

Role, Requirements and Responsibility of Tutors

The role of the ITAS tutor is extremely important and highly valued by the Nura Gili Indigenous Programs Centre. The primary role of an ITAS tutor is a commitment to the encouragement of independent learning. Tutors must have empathy and understanding of a student's need and an awareness of the resources available to address these needs. The ideal tutor will have the following knowledge, skills and communication abilities:

Knowledge

To assist students in;

- Developing or deepening theoretical understanding according to the subject
- Understanding key discipline related concepts
- Knowledge of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples communication styles and ability to relate to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- Knowledge of issues affecting/ likely to affect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people studying at the University of New South Wales

Skills

To assist students in;

- Improving critical thinking
- Understanding their own learning styles and strengths while working to improve areas of weakness identified by the student
- Improve research skills
- Information seeking, retrieval and evaluation
- Negotiate and evaluating key course readings
- Develop organisational and time management skills
- Developing planning, drafting and editing skills
- Develop flexible learning alternatives based on an understanding of the students knowledge base
- Developing oral and written language skills appropriate to discipline and level of university studies.

Communication

To improve students capacity to

- Handle the various communication skills specific to the subject or area of study in a way that will enhance an approach to independent learning on the students behalf
- To self edit and evaluate
- To negotiate with faculty staff and utilize alternative sources of services available within the University of New South Wales

Tutor Requirements

Qualifications - academic and professional experience.

Tutors must be sensitive to, and able to relate to the educational needs of Indigenous students.

To be eligible to conduct tuition, tutors must be either formally educated or have acquired relevant professional experience in the area of study in which the student is enrolled.

Where a tutor is formally qualified, certified copies of qualifications are requested. Tutors without formal qualifications in the subject requested by the student need to provide suitable written references establishing their ability to provide an appropriate level of tuition.

Under DEST guidelines, tertiary students are also eligible to register as ITAS Tutors, however they must be at least two academic years ahead of the student (1st or 2nd year students cannot be approved as ITAS tutors for university students) and be studying a major sequence in the subject requested by the student, able to show evidence of sound academic progress and not themselves receiving ITAS tuition in that subject area. Nura Gili determines through and application and interview process the eligibility of tutors.