

Study happy is a year-round programme designed to help students in Worcester study healthier, happier, smarter.

During the April and May assessment periods, we would usually provide activities and resources, such as Pets as Therapy dog visits and free tea and coffee sessions, to help you de-stress. With the current restrictions to movement and the transition to home working, we hope this guide will provide some useful tips for taking care of your physical, mental and academic wellbeing in these challenging times.

library.worc.ac.uk/ study-happy

## Healthier

What your body takes in as fuel during your studies can have a significant impact on your output and your mood.

Moving to studying from home can lead to a break in routine.

Keep regular mealtimes and remember to take frequent food and drink breaks to help your body and mind stay on track. Think about what you're eating and drinking and how it might affect your physical health and your mood.

Try to maintain a healthy diet including plenty of water and <u>fruit and vegetables</u> where you can.

You might not be able to get hold of everything you usually eat and drink.

Find new ways to be inventive with your ingredients and whip up delicious, healthy meals using leftovers.

## Stay active

Unless you're feeling unwell, you should continue to build regular exercise or activity into your daily routine.

> If you usually run or walk outdoors you can still do this once a day but remember to stay safe: choose a quieter time to go out and keep your distance.

Make the most of online content designed to help you stay active at home. You might prefer Joe Wicks, Mr Motivator or <u>NHS</u> <u>videos</u>. Try a few and find what works for you.

Slower, mindful exercises such as yoga or Pilates can be good for smaller spaces and might help you relax. There are plenty of free videos available, including <u>Yoga with Adriene</u>, which features tutorials for office yoga, lunch break yoga and even chair yoga.

# Happier

If you can, try to <u>get out</u> <u>in nature</u>. If you have one, make use of your garden If you don't have a garden, take notice of birds,trees and wildlife during exercise or even from your window.

Craft can be a great, productive way to de-stress. Try knitting, sewing or origami or, if you don't have materials to hand, give <u>online colouring</u> a go.

Practising mindfulness just means paying more attention to the present moment. Mindfulness may help focus your mind and relieve feelings of anxiety. There are <u>many different ways</u> <u>to practice mindfulness.</u> Give it a go and see what works for you.

Look for new ways to use technology to entertain and educate yourself. Boxsets are great but you can also <u>access</u> <u>ebooks and audiobooks</u> and even <u>online theatre</u> <u>performances.</u>

## **Keep in touch**

Staying in may be the new going out but that doesn't mean you have to miss out on catching up with friends and family.

Do you normally study with a group of friends? Why not organise regular virtual tea or coffee chats to help you take a break together?

Staying at home doesn't mean you need to sacrifice having some fun at the end of hard day's work. Use video calling software to attend virtual quizzes, games nights or even dinner parties from the comfort of your sofa.

Feeling overwhelmed with video calls? Don't forget, you can still give someone an old fashioned voice call or even just drop them a message to let them know you're thinking about them

## Smarter

Work out your work space. Find a study space that suits your needs and has plenty of space for all your resources. Why not try these <u>tips for</u> <u>organising your work space</u>?

Study space too quiet or too noisy? Struggling to stay focused at home? Apps such as <u>Noisli</u> or <u>Coffivity</u> provide ambient background noise and <u>Forest</u> and <u>Cold Turkey</u> could help you avoid on screen distractions.

Struggling with too much screen time? Take regular breaks from your screen and try out our <u>recommended tools</u> for screen-weary eyes.

## Be kind to yourself

You may feel more easily distracted or less able to concentrate on your work whilst everyone else appears to be especially productive. Try not to fixate on others. Instead, focus on your own goals and achievements.

While you should try to stay active, it is also important to give yourself a break- both literally and metaphorically. Have a cup of tea, play a game and pat yourself on the back for navigating another day.

We may be practising social distancing but there is still plenty of support out there. Ask if you need help.

# Help and support

We may be working remotely but help and support are still available.

There are lots of online resources available to support you with the current situation. Try the <u>Mind guide</u>

> or <u>Happiness Lab</u>

<u>Library Services</u> and <u>other</u> <u>University services</u>, are still here for you. 7

Apps can be a great way to keep on top of things. Try <u>SAM app</u>, <u>Catch It</u> or find others in the NHS app library.

## Need help now?

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#### Samaritans Call free any time 116 123

### Papyrus

Confidential suicide prevention advice

### <u>NHS</u>

Coronavirus help and advice

## **Useful links**

Study Happy website

University of Worcester remote working wellbeing

University of Worcester help and support

NHS Live Well

NHS Apps library

NHS Coronavirus information

<u>Mind Coronavirus guide</u> <u>Young Minds</u> <u>Samaritans</u> <u>Papyrus</u>

Online colouring and games

**Online theatre** 

**Ebooks and audiobooks** 

The**Hive** 

a partnership between

