

Bachelor of Information Technology Co-op Welcome Package



Welcome

A word from the faculty

Welcome and congratulations on starting your career as a Bachelor of Information Technology BIT Co-op scholar.

BIT boasts a series of social, professional and alumni events that enables you to form lifelong connections with fellow BIT scholars and industry contacts that could ignite your future career. The BIT program has a 100 percent employment track record with 80 percent of BIT Co-op scholars taking graduate roles with one of the BIT Co-op industry sponsors, and the remaining 20 per cent securing employment with reputable companies in the industry.

Transitioning to University can be daunting and with that in mind, the current BIT scholars have prepared this document with information and tips about being a BIT scholar. The BIT program has a close-knit community that offers great peer support while you study and the BIT team at the faculty would like to encourage you to get connected and make the most of this experience.

We look forward to meeting and supporting you throughout your university journey.

Bachelor of Information Technology Team UTS Faculty of Engineering and IT

Key Contacts in the BIT team

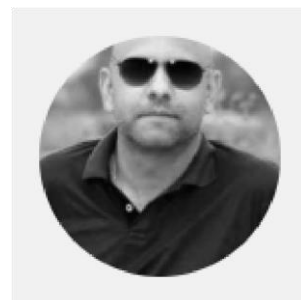
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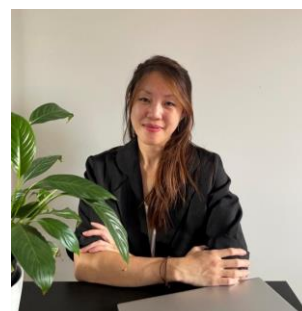
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Welcome from Ailbhe Doyle

Hi there!

My name is Ailbhe and I'm a current third year BIT student as well as the 2024 President of UTS Tech Society. On behalf of all Bachelor of Information Technology Co-op (BIT) students, I would like to extend a huge congratulations on receiving and accepting your offer to join UTS in 2024!

Starting University is an exciting and daunting new chapter for all of you, so rest assured that the cohorts of 2022 and 2023 are here to help guide you along the way. Starting with this Welcome Pack to help you settle in and kick-start your university experiences. In this document you will find advice from fellow BIT students, handy tips, and information on UTS technology-related societies to join.

Each BIT student looks back fondly on their first year of university in the BIT program due to its unique community, as well as the endless opportunities to get involved with university life at UTS. The BIT community is one of the best support systems at UTS, from both staff and students. Whether it be assignment help, group projects in tutorials, internship advice or just having someone to talk to – BIT is a close network of like-minded individuals that you will get to know over the coming weeks at orientation. As you will come to find, BIT is incredibly unique to other degrees in this aspect so take advantage of this and learn to support each other as you grow.

Societies at UTS are the heart of university life, getting to meet people and make lasting memories outside the lecture hall. As President of UTS Tech Society, I'm bias to the great opportunities and social events planned for our members this year, however, ActivateUTS has over 180 amazing clubs - there is something for everyone and I can't stress enough to get involved as a member or future executive.

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to reach out to any BIT student in this document on Facebook Messenger at any time as well as join our 2024 BIT Facebook group.

Congratulations again on receiving and accepting your offer, and we look forward to meeting you soon!

Ailbhe Doyle

3rd Year BITCOM Representative & President of UTS Tech Society 2024



Meet some BIT students

We've asked a few BITs to share a little bit about their backgrounds and experiences. These students are at different stages of their degree and hopefully their stories will encourage you to consider new opportunities and possibilities.

2nd Year BITs (2023 Cohort)

One of the most nerve-wracking periods for me was the time between finally finishing high school and starting Uni – I had no idea what to expect, no idea who I would meet and no idea whether this course would end up being the right path for me, despite all the effort I'd put into getting in! All worries aside, I felt extremely grateful to be surrounded by such a supportive and welcoming BIT cohort – as I'm sure you all will too! One of the best parts about BIT is that there's almost always a familiar face that you can turn to, whether that's in your classes, walking around campus or attending social events.

I can promise you from my own experience that this degree will be completely different to what you're expecting, but will also open up a whole world of opportunities that most other Uni students could only dream of attaining. Also, as cliché as it sounds, you'll learn so much about yourself and your peers throughout the duration of the course, and you'll make so many amazing memories along the way!

The best advice I can give to you is to never doubt yourself and always allow yourself to ask questions! If you've got something interesting to share, or if you have an idea, there's no harm in saying it – in most cases people will really appreciate the fact that you've made a contribution. Another good tip is to make the most of the close-knit BIT community wherever you can, as this is such a unique aspect of the course and will really allow you to find your feet from both social and academic perspectives.

Congratulations on becoming a BIT student! I'm so excited to meet you all, and if you ever have any questions or want to have a chat, please don't hesitate to reach out! :)



Steph Franks

2nd Year BITCOM Representative

My first few weeks of university were quite a whirlwind as I was originally enrolled in a course at another university and transferred to the BIT Coop course halfway through the first week of uni. The team behind the BIT degree were very supportive and made the transition into the BIT degree quite stress free. Being a first-year student, I found myself in a situation where all my friends from high school were at different universities. This made the prospect of starting university somewhat daunting. However, the older BIT cohorts were very welcoming and hosted lots of social events that helped my cohort feel a part of the BIT community.

Getting to know my own cohort and going to class with them was also a highlight of my first year. It was great having a group around me that were going through similar things as it helped make navigating the challenges of Uni life much easier, as we went through it together.

Alongside the amazing BIT community I got to be a part of, the first year of the degree was an amazing experience. Having the opportunity to complete a 6-month internship in only my second semester of Uni really showcased the benefit of this degree. I was able to expand on the skills I learnt in the first semester in a real world setting and also build my professional network.

My advice to the incoming 2024 cohort is to enjoy your time uni. Attend society events (btw don't book classes for Thursday nights), join society committees (especially TechSoc Committee) and do things that you enjoy. The degree is only 3 years so make as many memories as you can and make the most of your Uni days. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to reach out!



Yuvraj Thukar

2nd Year BITCOM Representative

3rd Year BITs (2022 Cohort)

The BIT experience is something really unique at UTS and something that I'm extremely grateful to be a part of. Thinking back to when I was about to start studying at UTS, I remember the worries I had about making such a change in my life and I had no idea what to expect from the BIT course or UTS. But from the very first orientation where I met my fellow BITs and the other BIT cohorts, I immediately felt welcomed and excited for what my university experience would entail. The many introductory social events hosted by the senior BITs provided me with a fun and welcoming platform to meet my my cohort and other BITs, and even though my orientation was two years ago, I think you'll find it's still very much the same, in the BIT community everyone is eager to help everyone!

Being part of BIT is great for expanding your abilities in the realm of IT. Being surrounded by other astute and directed students is a great benefit of the course and I recommend you make the most of it by collaborating and learning from your fellow scholars, even beyond your classes at university. But it's important to remember university life isn't all just work and exams! My advice to you is to also get out and enjoy your first year as much as you can, and get involved with the numerous BIT get-togethers, societies and campus events on offer!

My most important piece of advice to anyone joining BIT is to never be afraid to ask for help, even for something you might think is small or minor, because everyone in the BIT community, regardless of cohort, is always eager to help.

Congratulations on your offer and welcome to the BIT course, I look forward to meeting you all!



Alexis Tzanos

3rd Year BITCOM Representative

I remember the period of time between finishing high school and starting university, I was equal parts nervous and excited for what was to come. I knew throughout school that I wanted to study IT, but moving into a new environment was a bit intimidating for me. Having the BIT community around me made the transition much easier, through forming friendships with other BITs in my cohort as well as those a year or two older I now had a big group around me that made the campus much more inviting and easier to navigate.

Through one of the many group chats I was added to in the weeks in the lead up to my first semester I found out about start-of-semester event held by TechSoc, I went by myself absolutely terrified and left with a bunch of new friends much more excited to be starting university than I had been earlier. As well as this the BIT welcome night helped me meet more people before starting semester, making entering classes and going through semester 1 much less daunting as I had formed an awesome social and support network at Uni before it had properly started!

My biggest piece of advice to first year is to be open to the opportunities and experiences that it brings. Go along to O'Day and join every society that you're interested in (especially TechSoc, make sure to drop by and say hi!!), as the events and experiences these groups put on form a lot of the fun parts of Uni and allow you to meet even more new people.

The BIT program is an amazing opportunity, both academically and socially. First year is structured in a way that allows you all to grow into Uni together, all doing the learning curve at the same time. Transitioning into 'normal Uni' in Autumn semester and then straight into placements in Spring as a cohort fosters a very supportive community, lean into it, enjoy it!

Congratulations to everyone! If you have any questions or just want to chat to someone before starting please feel free to reach out, you'll be able to find me on the Facebook group!

I can't wait to meet you all soon!

Bella Ryan

3rd Year BITCOM Representative



BIT Alumni

When I first applied for BIT, I didn't think much of it. I thought it would be the traditional technology degree of difficult coding subjects and meeting maybe a handful of people along the way to study with. I can say with full confidence that BIT breaks every expectation you probably have with studying IT. For me, this happened at the Welcome Day, when we all first met, the older cohort made us feel welcome, and by the end of that day, my cohort formed some solid foundation for the year ahead.

Going into BIT, I had no coding experience at all. So it was pretty scary going into programming classes learning along the way, but the BITs in my class would help out and learn from each other. The BIT network is so helpful for students trying to learn more about all facets of IT, and you should utilise it to your advantage in your first year. Fast forward to today, and I am doing a development sub-major for my second year. BIT has completely changed what career I want to pursue.

It was pretty daunting heading into university knowing that you are surrounded by super intelligent and tenacious people like yourself. I did feel that I didn't belong in the beginning, especially not having the same experiences that others had. This is totally normal, and I know others felt the same. My advice is to take it slow, embrace your cohort, and learn from each other, some of you will be super developers, and others will be essay champions. Express your strengths and learn your weaknesses. You are reading this as a BIT so you are capable of everything!

My final and most important message is to reach out to other BITs, especially in other cohorts. We have experienced what you will go through and are here to help. From someone who actually had no idea what BIT was at first, to now a newly appointed BIT representative, you can ask me anything! Congratulations, and welcome to the life-changing journey that is BIT!

Oliver Guerreiro
2021 BIT Co-op Cohort



When I first heard about BIT, I was a little nervous and thought it may not be the right fit for me since I wasn't too confident in any programming languages and knew little about IT. Most of my high school friends were also at UNSW or USYD which also made me feel hesitant about BIT at UTS but by the end of my first week of uni, I already loved the degree, the content and the people. Before the semester even started, the Facebook group created by the older BITs helped me start to make connections with others in my cohort and gave me a forum to ask any questions I had which got rid of my nerves about starting uni. They even helped us to coordinate our class times! The events organised by the older BITs such as the welcome day, games night and dinner established early on, just how strong BIT culture is and how by being a BIT, you belong to a community of like-minded people. Making those strong relationships in my first semester got me through my first placement which was almost entirely online and my second semester subjects too.

My advice to you would be to enjoy your first year and make the most of the opportunities presented to you as possible! Attend your classes on campus if possible since it's a great way to meet new people/ hang out with other BITs and is helpful for collaboration within class (especially for group assignments) and don't be afraid to reach out to older BITs for help/advice or even if you're just looking for a new friend.

I'm so excited to meet you all this year, good luck!

Tanya Motiani
2021 BIT Co-op Cohort



BIT Committee

The BIT Committee (BITCOM) is a community of BIT Co-op students across all cohorts. Previously known as the BIT Society, it is completely student-run and organised by experienced BIT students. If you have enrolled in the BIT course, you're already a member!

The BIT Committee aims to organise and facilitate extra-curricular initiatives & activities for BIT students, including the [BIT Co-op Mentoring Program](#) and Welcome Events. These are all great ways to get to know the people you'll be experiencing uni with over the next few years. If you'd like to help us run events/initiatives and contribute to the future of BIT culture, keep an eye out for the expression of interest form later in the year or reach out to some older BITs.

BIT Co-op Facebook Group

We've created a 2024 cohort Facebook Group. You can coordinate timetables, organise events, share memes, or do whatever you like. This is where we will make announcements and keep you updated on new events and opportunities relating to BIT.

Please fill out the Google Form here: <https://forms.gle/4Yf4s7C8tWeqwgrk6> and we will add you on!

If the link expires, don't worry - we can add you to the group manually! Just shoot us an email at utsbitcom@gmail.com with a link to your Facebook account.

Upcoming Events

There are a number of events coming up in 2024 designed to familiarise you with your new community of BITs.

- Welcome to University Panel (Online)
- BIT Co-op Welcome Day (Late January - Early February)
- BIT Co-op Mentoring Program
- Half-yearly cross-cohort games night (TBA - In-Person)

We will keep you updated with the details of these events through our Facebook group. Let us know if you have any ideas on events you want to see!

BIT Co-op Mentoring/Buddy Program

We understand that university can be daunting, especially if you don't know anyone studying at UTS. To help out, we created the BIT Buddy Program. You will be paired up with one or more older BIT students who will act as your mentors throughout the year, and your go-to people to discuss academics, life, and uni concerns.

If you would like to be a part of the BIT Buddy Program, please complete the form below and tell us a bit about yourself so we can match you to an appropriate student mentor.

Google Form Link: <https://forms.gle/EUYsXhiHhyooyCYt8>

Faculty Societies

Student societies form an integral part of UTS's student culture and voice. Whilst the BIT program provides you with a strong community of peers, we strongly encourage you to join a FEIT faculty society. FEIT societies provide the best chance of meeting other people who study IT, as well as opportunities for professional development. Here are a few FEIT societies related to BIT that may interest you:

Tech Society

The UTS Tech Society (TechSoc) is the largest student-run technology association at UTS, and caters for everyone in IT. This society commands the highest levels of BIT participation and input year after year - by a huge margin. If you have a keen interest in technology and social events, we highly recommend that you join!

TechSoc hosts a number of social and professional development events so that students like you can meet like-minded peers from different degrees and make new friends and connections. Joining TechSoc will allow you to connect with our industry-leading sponsors, including banks, consultancies and a variety of tech companies at awesome networking opportunities that we bring to you through our events.

If you are looking to extend your participation in uni activities, joining the executive team is a great opportunity to add to your portfolio, manage projects, consult with industry, collaborate with others and make new friends. Keep an eye out for First-Year Representative elections in May!

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/UTSTechSoc>

ActivateUTS Signup: <https://activateuts.com.au/clubs/techsoc>

Programming Society

The University of Technology, Sydney Programmers' Society is a group dedicated to sharing information and resources in order to encourage learning in Information Technology, particularly in the area of programming.

UTS ProgSoc has a variety of ongoing projects and events, and volunteers are always encouraged to contribute.

The club has members experienced in Java, C, C#, PHP, Ruby, and many other programming languages.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ProgSoc/>

ActivateUTS Signup: <https://activateuts.com.au/clubs/programmers-society-progsoc>

Cyber Security Society

The UTS Cyber Security Society (CSEC) strives to promote cybersecurity at the University of Technology, Sydney (UTS). Whether you're a student, industry professional, or someone in another field - we want to build a culture that makes us the leading hub of cybersecurity skills development. You could be a part of that.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/UTSCSEC/>

ActivateUTS Signup: <https://activateuts.com.au/clubs/cyber-security-society>

WIEIT

Inspire. Educate. Empower. UTS Women in Engineering and IT (WiEIT) Program fosters a network of passionate females and males who are actively involved in the development of our next generation of young engineering and IT professionals.

We're growing and connecting the network of women in engineering, IT and the broader technology sector within UTS and into industry and the greater community. Join us for our weekly coffee hours in the WiEIT 'Cube' space, talks, and events, including for first-year students.

Website:

<https://www.uts.edu.au/about/faculty-engineering-and-information-technology/women-engineering-and-it>

How to join a society

ActivateUTS, the organisation overseeing all university societies, has a centralised system for society signups. We recommend signing up as soon as you get your UTS student number and email credentials.

1. Go to <https://activateuts.com.au/clubs>
2. Locate your society of choice
3. Click 'Join'
4. Create an account with your UTS Student Number
5. Checkout with a debit card or PayPal (Cash payments are no longer accepted, even on O'Day)

You can have a chat with each society on O'Day to learn more, and sign up on the spot thanks to Squarepay!

Women in Engineering & IT Gender Equity Ambassador Leadership Program

The Gender Equity Ambassadors Program engages students and staff to lead and create social change. This program will develop the community to be role models, advocates, and authentic leaders across all WiEIT initiatives. Open to all genders!

For more information: <https://www.uts.edu.au/about/faculty-engineering-and-information-technology/women-engineering-and-it/initiatives-uts-students/gender-equity-ambassadors>

Quick tips for Uni

#1 Make your timetable as a group

Classes are way more fun with friends that you can rely on. This makes group projects less stressful believe us when we say this!

If there's one thing you should take away from this document, it's to make your timetable together. Grab some friends, pick the same tutorial numbers and have a backup in case it fills up. A spreadsheet is a great way to organise this!

#2 Schedule your classes tactically

Try to schedule your classes without gaps (unless you're accounting for lunch). Subjects in the first year usually have a lecture and then a number of tutorial classes afterwards.

Protip: Back-to-back classes are better than waiting an hour or two for the next class. Trust us - you'll have time to get between them.

Also aim to schedule your subjects in as few days as possible. Opal card and lunch costs can add up quickly, and it can get pretty tiring to commute every day for classes that take 1-2 hours. Condensing your timetable will mean that you can have 4-5 day weekends or keep a part-time job on the side to accelerate your savings on top of your scholarship.

#3 Study spaces

If you are looking for spaces to study in between classes, your best bet is in Buildings 11 or 2. Buildings 1, 3, 5, 6 & 8 all tend to fill up very quickly. You can book individual rooms and pods in Building 2 and 11 via the UTS library website.

There are great spaces to study within Building 11, including but not limited to the FLP (CB11.05.300), Innovation Hub (iHub) (CB11.05.400) and study spaces on levels 3 to 5. To enter the FLP and iHub, make sure you have completed the Safety and Wellbeing Essentials' Module on Canvas as they require card access! The new Building 2 has a lot of space to study too in the forms of computer labs, casual study spaces, quiet floors and the Reading Room. Despite an abundance of spaces to catch up on your work, your best bet is to get a seat before lunchtime as it can get quite packed!

If you have a group project, there are several pods and study rooms that can be booked online from the UTS Library website (<https://www.lib.uts.edu.au/>). In peak periods expect to book at least 4 days in advance. Also, remember your HDMI adaptors so you can connect your laptops to the screens.

#4 Stay organised with your studies

It's important that you start off your learning on the right foot. It's very easy to fall behind and before you know it, you're going to have 10 lectures to review before the exam tomorrow - don't let this happen! Take a small moment every week to clean up your notes and keep them organised and use tools like Google Calendar to keep on-top of due dates. Work together with your peers and make sure that you all stay on top of your assignments!

#5 Food

Here are a few suggested food outlets that are within reasonable walking distance of Building 11. Have lunch in groups - it's definitely how a lot of us got to know each other.

BYO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Microwaves exist throughout Building 11, usually around student common areas. These include the Faculty Learning Precinct (FLP) on Level 5 (CB11.05.300) and kitchenettes located on levels 4, 0 and B1. Hot water is also available at these locations • More information on kitchenette facilities and study spaces around the UTS Campus can be found here: https://www.uts.edu.au/about/about-our-campus/our-campus/student-spaces-campus
Cheap food (~\$7)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Satang Thai & Jumbo Thai (both near UTS Building 5) • Fast food outlets (including Maccas, KFC, Subway) • Breadtop (near Central Station)
Mid-range (~\$10)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UTS Food Court (located on level 3 in Building 2) including HSP/Kebab, Mad Mex, Pappa Rich, Stock Market and Sushi World • Penny Lane (located on level 1 in Building 11) - daily specials • The Hub house diner (American burgers, halfway between Building 11 and Broadway Shopping Centre) • The food court in Central Park Mall (opposite Building 1) • Sushi Hub (Near Central Station) • TJ Sushi (near Building 11) • Two Wolves (Mexican and drinks - great for gatherings, near Broadway) • The Small Lemongrass (near Building 6 & The Goods Line)
Higher-end (~\$15)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Penny Lane - normal meals (inside Building 11, Level 1) • Gami Chicken (Korean Fried Chicken) & Ribs and Burgers (located inside in Central Park Mall) • Din Tai Fung (dumplings) • Grill'd & Nandos (Broadway food-court) • Spice Alley
Drinks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cornerstone Cafe (coffee in Building 7) • Cafe 10 (coffee in Building 10) • The Terrace (coffee inside UTS food court and outside the UTS Library in Building 2) • Chatime (Central Park, and in Building 2 food court) • Starbucks (across from Building 11) • Top Juice (Central Park Mall) • UTS Underground / The Loft