

First Year Experience - FACT SHEET

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THINK YOU NEED A BREAK FROM UNI?

Studying can be stressful and demanding and it does not allow time for much else. If you are really struggling to complete the semester (for any number of reasons) or have discovered that Uni is not for you right now, please check your options.

Options for taking a break are;

Leave of Absence

1. Taking 'Leave of Absence' from your course means you are still enrolled in that course but you are given time off from studying.
2. Your place is saved for you in the course, so you can return in 6 months or 1 year (at the start of a new semester) and pick up where you left off. There is an expectation that you will return to your course within 12 months so 'Leave of Absence' are rarely offered longer than that.
3. International students are entitled to only a maximum of one semester of approved 'Leave of Absence' from their course. This is in accordance with the Malaysian Immigration Act 1963 13(4)(b) that requires international students to cancel their Student Pass Visa prior to leaving the University.
4. 'Leave of Absence' is granted by your Director of School and forms are available at the Student Services desk. On most occasions you must have completed a semester of study before you can apply for 'Leave of Absence'.

Withdrawing – “dropping out” of Uni

1. Withdrawing from Uni needs to be carefully considered, and you may discover that the Uni provides help and support that can prevent you from needing to withdraw.
2. Before you withdraw, have you spoken to anyone about your decision?
3. To withdraw from Uni please complete the Withdrawal Form at Student Services. Not completing the proper paperwork means you could be recorded as AWOL (absent without leave) and still be charged course fees in the future.
4. Good luck with your decision!

It is also advisable to talk to someone about your concerns – as they may be able to help. People you could consider talking to are:

- Your Head of Department
- Your Director of School
- The University's Registrar
- The Head of Campus Life Project - First Year Experience – make an appointment on 085 443877 or email haslina.m@curtin.edu.my
- Counselling Service – make an appointment on 085 443926 or email christine.l@curtin.edu.my
- Peers, partners, friends