Going the distance

Study tips for distance learning students
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Tips to keep on top of revision

Original thread located in the AAT distance learning Facebook group
aat.org.uk/revisiontips

Stephen O’Brien
Just try and keep it constant, something every day no matter how long or short. That’s my study plan.

Samantha Bridge
I struggle to put in the hours too, I work have 2 kids and we’ve just bought a pub. I think consistency is the key, little and often and don’t rush it.

Jo McAllister
For me it’s not the end of the world if I run over. We are all different and work and learn at different rates.

Diego Marcillo
Working and studying can be difficult but not impossible to combine. Spending an hour per day reading your books will help you achieve your goals. Once you pass your first assessment it will give you the confidence you need. Just keep going.
Tips to keep on track with your study

Joanne Parry
Find a space to keep your books and calculator. Use a calendar to put in set dates, say 2 hours every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Or read a chapter a day. Once you start you’re on a roll and it becomes addictive. Also, speak to other members that are studying the same unit as you in the distance learning forums so you can work through it together.

Deanna Sharratt
I found that the best way for me to focus on studying was to make it the very first thing I did. It seems to help me and I am now able to put my studies first every weekend.

Natalie Adele
I set myself mini deadlines to keep on track with my studying.

Thalia Colyer
Treat it as you do your job. You can’t say to your work ‘I can’t get motivated so I’m not bothering’ and the same goes with your study.
What do you do to avoid using Facebook socially when you are trying to study and prevent it from being a distraction?

Chloë McGuire
Leaving my phone and iPad on the opposite floor of the house to where I’m studying helps.

Dwynwen Rowlands
Deactivating my account when an assessment is approaching helps me.

Sammie Rollings
I earn my Facebook time – 2 hours of study = 20 mins of Facebook time.

Tracy ‘Dotty Wotwot’ Hunter
I give myself a mini target. If I get to that point in my book I can spend a few minutes on Facebook.

I EARN MY FACEBOOK TIME – 2 HRS OF STUDY = 20 MINS OF FACEBOOK TIME.

Sammie Rollings
How do you make the kids/family/friends understand that you need quiet study time?

Lisa Taylor
I study with a pair of headphones and listen to music. This means I’m not distracted by noises in the room.

Deanna Sharratt
I have a fixed study time every weekend (Sundays) and that is now sacred time. The rest of my study I do in my lunch breaks or when everyone is in bed. My daughter will be doing her GCSEs next year so I hope I am setting her a good example.

Joanne Parry
I have a very supportive husband who took on the housework/gardening etc. to ensure I finish before December. And to reward him I finished (fingers crossed, results pending) with 3 months spare!!

Steve Smith
Headphones are great otherwise I go into work over the weekend.

Sasha Lankshear
I shut myself away in the bedroom. Or better still I like to spread my work out on the kitchen table.
How do you create an effective study area at home?

Original thread located in the AAT distance learning Facebook group aat.org.uk/studyarea

Sarah Weasel
If I’m doing online sample assessments or doing a mega study session I sit in the kitchen. I also take a notepad and book with me everywhere now as you never know when you may get five minutes to do some reading or practice questions.

Joanne Parry
The dining table is all mine during studying and being able to leave my books, laptop, calculator, pens etc. out ready for the next time helps me to get on with it.

Rebecca Rathbone
I live in a flat so I do not have a separate room or space for a desk. So the left side of the sofa is for study. I never sit there to relax. When I sit on the left I’m in study mode.

Jo McAllister
I work either at the dining room table or at my desk in the spare bedroom. I take books anywhere I am likely to have time to read such as at the doctors, dentist, and at work.

Jesse James
I tend to stay behind at work and do at least 1.5 hours study 3 days a week.

THE LEFT SIDE OF THE SOFA IS FOR STUDY. WHEN I SIT ON THE LEFT I’M IN STUDY MODE.

For more study tips visit aat.org.uk/gothedistance
How do you pick yourself up after failing an assessment? How do you carry on when things seem bleak?

Alice Barton
It's important that everyone around me cheers me on and makes me realise I wanted this and how hard I've already worked to get this far. But the one thing that keeps me going is seeing how proud my mum is of me and knowing she paid for me to be on this journey. I would have given up if I had paid for myself but because she took the time and care to help me find my path in life and gave up her own needs to fund this I can never give up. Just finding the one thing that can help you notice you're still doing well is all it takes.

Mike Webster
Think not of failure rather achieving differently! Treat the assessment as a learning exercise and focus on the weak areas. Most importantly do not rush into a re-sit. After all, you achieved differently for a reason - if it took weeks to get assessment ready the first time, you must spend a while ensuring the topic(s) you nail the ones that didn’t go so well. However, keep going - the hard work really does bring the benefits in the long run.

Natasha Everard
I appear to be an expert at this! Failing brings out lots of emotions... panic, embarrassment, feeling disheartened, but it's these emotions that motivate you to pick yourself up and carry on. I believe failing has made me a stronger student.

Thalia Colyer
One thing I try to remember is that, whilst I’m not particularly clever or talented, hard work makes up for that and the people who pass their assessments aren't necessarily more clever, they are there because they didn’t give up. When you qualify, nobody knows or cares how long it took or whether you passed everything first time. If AAT was easy, it wouldn’t be a qualification worth having!
How do you reward yourself for your self-discipline?

Carol Rogers
Whatever it is I've withheld to get me to study in the first place. So, if I do x number of hours studying I can have a takeaway, walk into town for a coffee, or settle down to watch a film. It differs depending on my plans for the day.

Sophie Tourick
By having a day off studying.

Nina Campbell
I go straight from the assessment centre into town and reward myself by buying myself a new piece of clothing for the amazing job I’m going to get when I’m qualified.

Stacey Hart
Food! There's nothing like a nice meal at a restaurant to relax/celebrate.
Which of the online AAT study resources do you use most?

Nicola Pinnell

The Green light tests and the sample assessments. With the assessments I open the answers and check against my answers as I go along. Anything I get wrong I make a note and revise that part. With the Green light tests I keep going until I get 80% or above.

Angela McLoughlin

I can't believe more people don't use the performance feedback resource. It breaks down each question, gives you clues as to how to answer them and advises you where previous students have gone wrong. I think it’s brilliant.

Lisa Taylor

I looked at the performance feedback resource and instantly decided to print this. It looks like it will be unbelievably useful!

Rachel Connolly

I like the sample assessments as you can familiarise yourself with how AAT word their questions and how they want you to answer the written questions.

Katie-Louise Draffen

I like the Green light tests as they explain the answers after it has been marked so you know where you went wrong.
How do you remind yourself why you started the AAT journey in the first place?

Joanne Parry
I think about the potential future earning and employability opportunities I may get. I also think about the skills and confidence it will give me to set up on my own. I also think that the cost for studying all three levels including assessments and 3 years membership fees is maybe £3,500 tops. The qualification will pay for itself in no time!

Thalia Colyer
After 13 years of being a carer for family and a stay at home mum, it’s about time I got back to my career again. If I didn’t retrain I’d be re-joining the workforce at entry level rather than being able to go back in at the level I was. I’m not prepared to do that.

Alice Barton
By my empty purse and bank account! And seeing all the empty buildings in town that I’d love to turn into my own business. Very simple little reminders that I want to be self-employed.

Fran Brisland
By making my parents proud of me as I have said for 20 years I wanted to be an accountant and now I actually am going to do it.

Timea Szakszon
I don’t have to remind myself. That’s what I want and there is no other way just straight ahead!
How do you remind yourself why you started the AAT journey in the first place?

Carol Rogers
I look around me at what I have now, and it keeps me motivated to get these last two assessments out of the way. I’ve come a long way and learnt so much about accounting and about myself in the last three and a half years. It’s a hard slog, but so worth it.

Yvonne Eastoe
I chose the bookkeeping/accounts path when I was a single parent and needed to earn as much as possible to keep a roof over my family’s heads. It was only much later in life that I started studying AAT. I didn’t have the time, money or opportunity before. My reason for that was to progress. I was already an Accounts Manager after years of working my way up, but needed something extra to keep myself relevant in the workplace. I found I was applying for jobs I would easily be able to do, but didn’t have the qualification to prove it. Hence AAT studies! I’m now in a great job with progression prospects, on my last Level 4 module and a pay rise is riding on it. I only have to look back at how far I’ve come, in order to remind myself why.

Seeing all the empty buildings in town that I’d love to turn into my own business.

Alice Barton
Want more help?

For more help and study tips as an AAT distance learner visit aat.org.uk/gothedistance

Thanks to the members of the AAT distance learning group for providing us with their study tips. This group has been created by AAT members and you can join the group at facebook.com/groups/aatdistancelearning

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