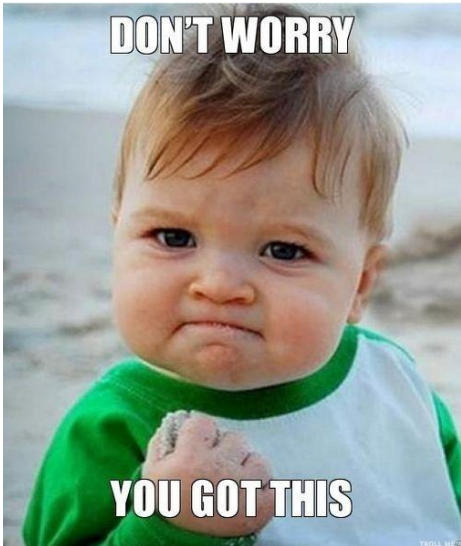# ACADEMIC ADVISING NEWSLETTER

For new RIT Dubai students - August 2020 - 2

HERE WE GO!!

Can you believe it? The day is finally here – you're starting university! **Classes start on Sunday, Aug 30th.** Although things probably look a little different than you imagined, this is still the start of a very exciting journey! You might be feeling excited, nervous, confused, overwhelmed, or all the above! Don't worry – you're not alone. We're all here to help you make the most of your university experience!
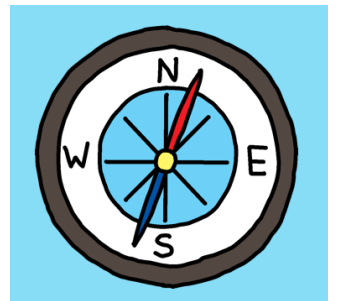
A few tips to get you started:

- **Start Strong!** – Do your best in your classes from Day 1. It's much easier to do well and maintain it, than to slack off, then try to pull yourself up.
- **Ask for help!** – We won't lie; university can be HARD! Don't be shy to ask for help – that's what your professors, advisors, and everyone else are here for!
- **Read EVERYTHING** – CHECK YOUR EMAIL EVERYDAY. OPEN ATTACHMENTS. ATTEND INFO SESSIONS. READ ALL YOUR ASSIGNMENTS. *You don't know what you don't know,* so don't miss out on important information!

GET ORIENTED

If you missed **Orientation** on Monday, **make sure to watch the sessions here.** Orientation helps you understand how things work at RIT Dubai and to transition well. A lot of information was shared by all the different departments, so don't ignore this!

ZOOMIN'!

In this email, you will also see the schedule of all classes and their Zoom links attached. Check the schedule your advisor gave you and **make sure you attend the correct section with the correct times.**

- **RIT 365 links are not yet available** – please stay tuned!
- Note that **ALL CLASSES WILL START ONLINE.** For in-person labs/classes, you will meet online next week and discuss any issues you might have with attending in-person.

GET SET UP

As soon as you get your RIT email account set-up, start accessing the 2 websites mentioned in the last newsletter: SIS and myCourses.

SIS:
1. Go to sis.rit.edu
2. Click on "**Student Info System**" and sign in
3. Click on "**Enroll and Search**" and "**View my classes**"
4. **Check** that all the courses in your schedule are listed. If something is wrong or missing, email your advisor!
5. If you have *no classes listed*, remember that your **Admissions file must first be complete.** Then wait a couple days and check again.

myCourses (mycourses,rit,edu):
Once you're enrolled in classes, you will be able to access each course shell in myCourses; however, updates are only made from SIS once every 24 hours, in the afternoon, Dubai time.
- If you don't see any courses listed in myCourses, check SIS first.
- If your courses are on SIS, then check myCourses again in the evening.

You will be using myCourses extensively to interact with your courses, so bookmark the page or set it as your homepage. Check your notifications and announcements *daily*. If you're experiencing technical difficulties, you can contact IT Services at dubaiservicedesk@rit.edu or Online Student Support from the myCourses homepage.

SYLLA-WHAT?

Listen to Snoop and make sure you **READ THE SYLLABUS**
for each of your classes! What's a syllabus, you ask?
A syllabus is your guide to a course. It includes:
- how to contact your instructor
- a description of topics to be covered
- what will be expected of you
- course policies
- an explanation of how you will be graded
- list of assignments and deadlines

Your syllabi will be posted on MyCourses. Read it   and make sure you understand it as **every professor has different policies for their classes.** If it's in   the syllabus, you're responsible to know it!